

# Bavarian News

Vol. 6, Nr. 9

U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ansbach, Schweinfurt and Garmisch

May 12, 2010

**HOHENFELS**  
**Top shooter**  
A photographer for JMRC takes top honors with his portrayals of the Soldier story

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**PAGE 9**

**GARMISCH**  
**Force protection**  
American and host nation personnel test their interoperability during this year's force protection exercise

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**PAGE 14**

**ANSBACH**  
**That rocks!**  
Ansbach Elementary students get up close and personal with the lunar surface

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**PAGE 16**

**SCHWEINFURT**  
**Kinder paradise**  
After a year in the making, a new youth center delivers full-fledged fun

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**PAGE 19**



**Seriously, volks**  
It's time to celebrate the Vilseck German-American Volksfest.  
The extravaganza will kick off Thursday, May 13, following the 2SCR deployment ceremony at 3 p.m., and run through Sunday, May 16. With live bands and rodeo shows each day, this fest promises to be a hit.  
See page 10 for details.

**Soldier Show**  
The U.S. Army Soldier Show will dazzle the community with two free performances Saturday, May 29, at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at Grafenwoehr's Tower Theater.  
See page 10 for details.

Index	
Opinion Editorial	2
News	3-6, 20-21
Strength in Diversity	4
What's Happening	10-11
Travel	13
Medical	15
Movies	26
AAFES	27

## ‘The 10 toughest days’



**A Soldier from the 16th Sustainment Brigade receives constructive criticism from an instructor at the Camp Robertson Training Area, Germany, during the first day of air assault training.**

### Mobile Training Team brings Air Assault Course to Europe for first time in two years

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

CAMP ROBERTSON, Germany – With a thunderous roar of “Air Assault!” Soldiers from around U.S. Army Europe charged to the start point of the obstacle course, here, March 27, marking day one of the Air Assault Course.  
Led by a Mobile Training Team from Fort Benning, Ga., this was the first time in two years that the Air Assault Course has been taught in Europe.  
“We’re all excited to be here,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Gregory Slater, sergeant major of the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning. “All of us are excited to put on some good quality training.”  
The 21st Theater Sustainment Command and 172nd Infantry Brigade invited the MTT to conduct the training, which was open to Soldiers throughout Europe and included two students from the Italian army. Host units provided all of the funding for the MTT and course, Slater said.  
“This is only the second time I’ve come out  
See AIR ASSAULT, page 21



**Soldiers negotiate the “Skyscraper” obstacle under the watchful eyes of Mobile Training Team Air Assault instructors at the Camp Robertson Training Area in Germany during the first day of air assault training, March 27. Soldiers from across U.S. Army Europe converged on Camp Robertson to take part in the Air Assault School training, hosted by the 21st Theater Sustainment Command and 172nd Infantry Brigade.**

## Postal patrons asked to pick up parcels

Story and photos by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

Shallow footsteps echoed against the metal mailboxes, one slow step at a time while walking through the Main Post Postal Service Center, April 20. The clutter of patrons that usually visits the post office daily, collecting their Netflix movies and mailing German goodies to family members in the States, was non-existent. Desolate shelves stood at attention and postal employees looked around anxiously, waiting for customers.  
“It’s the calm before the storm,” said Postal Specialist Cathy Bain. “It’s been pretty slow around here, but we know what to expect next week.”  
In a news release, April 15, the European Air Safety Body “Eurocontrol” said numerous flights within Europe were cancelled because of a cloud of ash forecasted to move over the European air space. The volcanic ash spread and closed down airports for the next week.  
In addition to leaving numerous passengers stranded in random destinations across the globe, the eruption also delayed incoming and outgoing mail.



**Community member Greg Galvan checks his mailbox after an influx of postage filtered through the Main Post Postal Service Center, recently. Patrons are encouraged to check their mail regularly.**

During this time, inbound and outbound mail via air transit came to a complete halt. This included express, priority, first class, time sensitive periodicals, magazines and newspapers and Intertheatre Delivery Mail - items coming via air from military postal facilities outside of Germany including but not limited to Italy, Turkey and Iraq.  
Additionally, the Postal Operations Branch Installation Management Command-Europe (IMCOM-E) Heidelberg issued a freeze on all outgoing mail due to reaching maximum capacity of storage space at the German Air Mail Terminal in Frankfurt, Germany, which is the portal for all military installations in IMCOM-E.  
Postmaster Jaye Bakalars, Grafenwoehr Main Post-Postal Service Center, explained that, ironically, the only incoming mail the Grafenwoehr PSC saw during the week of April 16-23 was standard bulk rate mail transferred via ship; a transit time that usually takes much  
See POST OFFICE, page 21

## Local thespians sparkle at ‘Toppers’

by **Trecia A. Wilson**  
*Assistant Editor*

The lights were as bright as those in Hollywood, and the fashion was high, too; for the most part. The trophies resembled the Oscars with a twist. A square marble base with “Oscar” holding a star above his head, and there were plenty of “stars” waiting to shine at the annual Tournament of Plays “Topper” Awards Show in Heidelberg, April 24.  
Tensions soared as representatives from military community theatres as close as Heidelberg, Kaiserslautern and Grafenwoehr, Germany, and as far away as Ankara, Turkey, Brussels, Belgium and Vicenza, Italy, sat on the edges of their seats awaiting the results.  
Approximately 23 cast, crew and family members of the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center added their fever-charged emotions to the almost 600 attendees. It may as well have been the Oscars, the excitement was so thick.  
Unlike the Oscars, however, where nominees are known in advance, competitors in Toppers never know they are nominated until show time.  
Though a bit long, as awards ceremonies often are, Topper’s organizers always deign to put their best foot  
See TOPPERS, page 20

## EB-G projects near end at Graf

by **Trecia A. Wilson**  
*Assistant Editor*

The end is in sight. The Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr project is on its final leg.  
For many, this brings a sigh of relief, but for others it is a sigh of concern. This dichotomy exists because the completion of a construction project of this size has enormous financial implications for the economics of the region.  
Many U.S. Army and German dignitaries met to formally celebrate the success and final phases of the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr project, April 29.  
See EB-G, page 20

## IN THIS EDITION

### Culinary delight

Local Soldiers and civilians have mastered the recipe for success

**PAGE 4**

### Heavenly Holland

Amsterdam and Haarlem offer creature comforts for every traveller

**PAGE 13**

### Sniper family values

German and U.S. snipers share stalking skills with one another

**PAGE 21**





## Bavarian News

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We want to hear from you!  
The *Bavarian News* welcomes articles from Army organizations and announcements from the general public about events of interest to the military community.

If you have newsworthy ideas or stories you'd like to submit, coordinate with the managing editor at 475-7113, or e-mail jeremy.buddemeier@eur.army.mil. Prior coordination is mandatory.

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Water Tower art by Dane Gray

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



# 'It's great to be at Grafenwoehr!'

The Grafenwoehr Military Community continues to improve infrastructure and services. We recently conducted our third Installation Planning Board (IPB) in April. Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, Joint Multinational Training Command commanding general, hosted this semiannual forum. More than 60 key leaders from across the community gathered to discuss strategic planning issues and consider decisions affecting the installation's direction and priorities.

The IPB synthesizes the results of nearly 50 other planning activities that occur throughout the year. These include stationing actions, real property planning, environmental management and family readiness. The IPB is our primary forum to demonstrate how installation activities are interrelated, and it provides us with a final opportunity to synchronize stakeholder requirements.

Some of the proposals that will be worked from this meeting included: creating a consolidated resiliency campus on Main Post to serve Soldier and family needs; creation of a Grafenwoehr Military Community Center; creation of a Grafenwoehr Military Museum; and completing our transition from Grafenwoehr Training Area to Grafenwoehr Military Community in conjunction with the 100-year anniversary celebration, June 27–July 4.

Minutes of the April IPB meeting are available at [Grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://Grafenwoehr.army.mil) under the Garrison Management – Plans, Analysis and Integration page.

As part of the follow-on to the IPB, we conducted an Installation Strategic Sustainability Plan conference. The ISSP integrates all functional planning documents while institutionalizing sustainable practices. This means we bring together stakeholders to produce objectives with measures, targets and actions in support of our strategic goals.

The focus areas for the ISSP were host nation relations, infrastructure, mission services, safety and security, well-being and workforce. Both the IPB and the ISSP ensure Grafenwoehr remains a great place to be by providing a common operating picture for our entire community. Our tenant units and agencies that participated in our ISSP will be able to incorporate the working group plans into their future planning.

We also formally recognized all garrison employees at our Army Superior Unit Award (ASUA) ceremony, May 7. The Department of the Army recognized the garrison for the planning and hard work that our Soldiers, civilians and local national employees accomplished to realize the Army's Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr program, and the restationing, deployment and reintegration of more than 11,000 Soldiers while simultaneously supporting more the 22,000 family members and transient training units. The garrison received an ASUA streamer and all employees, U.S. and local national, plus our USAG Soldiers, received the



Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier

**Col. Chris Sorenson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr, attaches an Army Superior Unit pin on the lapel of Verlena Wilson, acting director of USAG Grafenwoehr's Directorate of Logistics, during a recognition ceremony in front of Building 500 on Grafenwoehr's Main Post, May 7. More than 500 Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and local nationals received their Army Superior Unit ribbon or pin at the ceremony. Assisting Sorenson are USAG Grafenwoehr's Command Sgt. Maj. William Berrios and Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Banks, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, USAG Grafenwoehr.**

Army Superior Unit pins (civilians) or ribbons (military).

Making the Grafenwoehr Military Community 'Army Strong!'

*Col. Chris Sorenson  
Commander, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*

## CSM CORNER



## Volunteers make a community

Thanks to everyone for their outstanding participation in the annual spring cleanup. It was great to see everyone's dedication to keeping our environment pristine. Keep up the great work.

Volunteerism isn't just a nice to have around military installations. It's a must have. Due to major budget restrictions a number of jobs just wouldn't get done if someone in our community didn't step up to the plate and volunteer.

Volunteering helps the units, churches, teams and organizations, but it also helps the volunteer in ways they may not even know. Volunteer hours and awards can be put on your resume. When a prospective employer sees the commitment a potential employee has for an activity they don't get paid to perform, it gives them good insight into the employee's character. A dedicated volunteer is often a dedicated employee who is reliable and result oriented.

Our garrison is lucky to have so many volunteers and we were happy to recognize the contributions they made during the last year. This year's award ceremony was held at the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center, April 29, and attendees were treated lunch and a show. Eight outstanding singers, seven of whom are

GPAC volunteers, performed an entertaining Broadway musical medley arranged with special lyrics highlighting volunteers.

A special congratulations goes to Shannon Sevier for her outstanding level of volunteerism. She recently received an award at the annual Volunteer Recognition ceremony for completing 2,000 volunteer hours this year.

More than 500 volunteers were awarded certificates this year, but there are many volunteers who go unnoticed because they just don't know how to log their hours.

Be sure to talk to your organization about how your time can be logged and get the proper credit for that time you share. For more information on logging credit for hours volunteered, contact Vicky Cunningham at the Army Community Service office in Vilseck at DSN 476-2797, CIV 09662-83-2797, or visit [www.my-armyonesource.com/default.aspx](http://www.my-armyonesource.com/default.aspx) and click on the "become a volunteer" link at the top of the page.

Congratulations go to all those who get out there and volunteer. If not for you, many things in our community would not happen.

*Command Sgt. Maj.  
William Berrios  
CSM, U.S. Army  
Garrison Grafenwoehr*



**From left to right: Jessi Dye, Capt. Jacob Jordan, J.C. Smith, Stephanie Lewis, Sgt. Jerry Wilson, 1st Lt. Gwynn Miller, Joline Powell and Bob King perform a special volunteer version of a Broadway music medley at the opening of the Volunteer Awards Ceremony, April 29. All volunteers who logged 500 hours or more were recognized with a certificate of appreciation and various garrison organizations recognized their outstanding volunteers.**

Photo by Trecia A. Wilson

## Study lists some military spouses as 'Not in Labor Force'

by Jacey Eckhart  
[CINHouse.com](http://CINHouse.com)

There used to be three kinds of chicks when it came to military spouse employment. The employed chick and the unemployed chick and the wannabe employed chick. Those were all the chicks the government could count.

Not anymore. This spring the RAND Corporation brought out a little study called "Measuring Underemployment Among Military Spouses." Researchers Nelson Lim and David Schuler decided to dump the traditional measures and use a new framework to get to a more accurate picture of military spouse employment.

Most interesting to me was a new way to describe unemployed spouses: NILFs. NILF actually stands for "Not in Labor Force." In this study, the researchers used the term to describe spouses who are not looking for a job because they do not want a job.

And the numbers were significant. Lim and Schuler found that military spouses were far more likely to NILF than civilian counterparts matched by age, race, parental status, citizenship, education, experience and geographic location. Brilliant.

But then the researchers made recommendations that were, well, lame-o. They suggested that if the government wanted to raise the number of NILFs in the workforce, they should build more child care centers. What?

These NILF spouses aren't a bunch of lazy, dependent slacker gals who need a job. If you ask me, NILFs are more likely not to want a job be-

cause they are already fully occupied, thanks. They are stay home moms with babies and toddlers. Behind-the-wheel moms of middle schoolers and high schoolers, homeschooling moms, volunteers and full-time students.

So look at the numbers again. Compared to our matched civilian counterparts, we military spouses are much more likely to choose to be NILF. We are more likely to be NILF if we have kids. We are more likely to NILF as our husbands rise in rank (read: income).

Those researchers need to ask themselves why we military spouses would choose to do this more often than civilians do. Hint: it isn't due to a lack of day care centers.

Instead, Lim and Schuler have actually discovered in numbers proof of one of the coping strategies some military families employ. Could it be that the demands of military life are so high that NILFing makes sense, that opting out is a powerful response worth more to the workings of these particular families than the extra paycheck would be?

By seeing the NILF as an individual who cannot get a job underestimates NILFing as a response to the demands of military life. It also underestimates the kind of adaptations employed spouses make. These numbers are a call to leave surveys behind and start qualitative research, the kind where you send researchers into the field to closely observe the ways that families cope. Because that is the next necessary research required to understand the reality of military spouse employment.



# Cyclists should use their heads

Story and photo by  
**Staff Sgt. Patricia Deal**  
*USAREUR Public Affairs*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Wearing a Consumer Product Safety Commission-approved helmet while bicycling can reduce head injury risk by 85 percent.

“The number one safety rule is that all riders need to wear a helmet. While wearing a helmet won’t prevent accidents, it will significantly reduce your injury level if you’re wearing one,” said Safety and Occupational Health Specialist Shane Podraza, from the U.S. Army Europe Safety Office. “Studies show that nearly 70 percent of all fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries, highlighting the importance of wearing a helmet.”

Despite the definite safety benefit of wearing a helmet, Podraza said those same studies show that only 20 to 25 percent of cyclists wear helmets.

More cyclists will wear a helmet when cycling in areas with helmet use laws in place, according to statistics from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. While only a few U.S. states have local ordinances requiring bicyclists to wear helmets, it is a requirement for all cyclists to wear a helmet when riding on military installations in U.S. Army Europe.

“One thing for certain is that the MPs and gate guards definitely enforce USAREUR regulations that require bicycle riders — and passengers — to wear a helmet when riding on military installations,” said Crime Analyst Jim Taylor, from the USAREUR Office of the Provost Marshal. “It’s just one means we have to keep riders safe.”

And keeping that helmet on while biking off-post is the smart, and safe, thing to do.

Doctors at USAREUR medical facilities see firsthand the physical and emotional trauma patients suf-



**Staff Sgt. April Scales cycles with her daughter, Amia, and son, Earl (E.J.), through the housing area at Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg. Scales makes sure her family cycles safely, always wearing their helmets when riding.**

**“I would wear one even if (my mom) didn’t nag me. I was in an accident and ... broke my arm. I could have been hurt a lot more if i didn’t wear a helmet.”**

**Earl (E.J.) Scales, 11**

fer from head injuries. Chief Pediatrician Lt. Col. Michael Pelzner, from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, said it’s frustrating for him as he treats many preventable, seri-

ous head injuries in children who weren’t wearing a helmet when bicycling or skateboarding.

“Besides the usual bumps and bruises, you can get skull fractures, deep cuts and concussions.

“There’s not a lot of padding on the outside of the head, and the blood vessels are near the surface so even minor cuts can bleed a lot,” he said. “Falls off a bike or skateboard can occur at significant velocity, increasing the severity of injuries.

“I can’t emphasize enough that kids will adapt to consistent routines and expectations. Parents need to start mandating helmet use as soon as kids start on the tricycle at age three to four, and keep at it.

“Teenagers think they are invincible, but often respond when they see or hear about a friend

who got hurt, or was even killed, because they didn’t wear it while riding a bike,” he said.

Health Center Dental Clinic Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge Staff Sgt. April Scales said she believes in the importance of wearing helmets while riding. “I make sure I wear one every time I ride,” she said. “And my son knows the rule ‘no helmet, no riding.’”

Earl (E.J.) Scales, 11, said he always follows his mother’s rule, even though some of his friends don’t always wear a helmet when riding.

“I would wear one even if she didn’t nag me,” he said. “I was in an accident and got pretty banged up, broke my arm. I could have been hurt a lot more if I didn’t wear a helmet.”

## Spotlight on Education



**Name:** Larry Chanin

**Hometown:** Far Rockaway, N.Y.

**What grade and subject do you teach?** I currently teach Video Communication 1, 2 & 3, Engineering Computer Aided Design, and Architectural Computer Aided Design for grades 9-12.

**How long have you been a teacher?** This is my 31<sup>st</sup> year.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** The thing I enjoy most about teaching is the look in the students’ eyes when he or she internalizes a concept. It is like the ignition of a bright light.

**What advice can you give students to help them succeed?** For students to succeed, they need three things: They have to like and have confidence in themselves; focus on the solution, not the problem; once committed, complete the task to the best of their ability.

## JMTC hosts art contests for 100th GTA celebration

Students have three options for competing

by **JMTC Public Affairs**  
*News Release*

From now through May 28, the Joint Multinational Training Command Headquarters will sponsor three contests — an art, photo, and essay contest — to mark the 100th anniversary of the Grafenwoehr Training Area. All submissions must relate to the history of the training area. Creativity is encouraged.

For the art and essay contests, there are two categories for submission. The photo contest has one category.

### Art contest

Category One: Students from grades 8-12 can submit a piece of art.

Category Two: Students from grades 4-7 can submit a piece of art.

### Essay Contest

Category One: Students from grades 8-12 can submit a 300-400 word essay, single spaced and in Calibri font.

Category Two: Students from grades 4-7 can submit a 100-200 word essay, single spaced and in Calibri font.

### Photo Contest

Students from grades 8-12 can submit one photo. The photo must

have something to do with the history of the training area.

Note: Participants should visit the Grafenwoehr Military Museum in downtown Grafenwoehr for ideas. Martin-Posser-Str. 14 92655 Grafenwoehr (Stadtmitte) CIV 09641-8501

### How to enter

Submissions for each contest must be sent to the JMTC Public Affairs Office on or before May 28 at 5 p.m. Entries must include the contact information for the entrant. Entries should be hand-delivered to the JMTC Public Affairs Office at Bldg. 123, Room 111. For the essay and photo contest, all submissions require a copy of the photo or essay on a CD. All entries become the property of the JMTC PAO and will not be returned and may be used by the JMTC for any purpose and in any media in perpetuity.

### How to win

The winners will be selected by a panel of public affairs professionals from the JMTC Public Affairs Office. In each category, prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. All participants will receive a certificate. Select winners will be showcased in the Bavarian News, displayed in the Grafenwoehr Military Museum and on the JMTC Web site.

## Kinderfest 2010



Left: “Honorary 2SCR Staff Sgts.” Damian Jose Sapien, 6, and Dominica Mae Sapien, 4, practice their backyard planting skills during Kinderfest 2010 at Netzaberg School Age Center, 24 April. More than 400 children of all ages attended the event, which included activities such as soccer (bottom left), arts and crafts (bottom right), face painting and fishing.

Photos by Ann Bruennig



Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page, [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil), for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.



# Culinary team serves winning recipes

Story and photos by  
**Sgt. Daniel J. Nichols**  
*U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Members of “Team Europe,” the U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe 2010 Culinary Arts Team, were formally recognized for their achievements during a culinary demonstration and awards ceremony at the Warrior Zone on Patton Barracks here, April 29.

At the event, the team, made up of Soldier and civilian chefs from across the Army in Europe, cooked and served the award-winning “Gold Medal Field Meal” it prepared at the 35th U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition at Fort Lee, Va., in late February and early March.

“They’ve already done this menu numerous times in training and they won a gold medal at the all-services competition,” said Sgt. Maj. Mark Warren, USAREUR senior food service NCO. “Today’s demonstration is not only for these Soldiers, but for the senior participants. When they come in they’ll be able to experience firsthand – see, smell, taste – the quality and the level of food service execution it took for the Soldiers to get to this point,” Warren said.

While the world “field” is part of the name of the winning meal, this is not food in olive drab envelopes, and nothing here is freeze-dried. The gold medal meal includes mouth-watering treats such as herb pork tenderloin crepinette, carrot and ginger puree with pearl onions and peas, seared salmon, and streusel baked apple with mascarpone cream filling.



**Members of Team Europe, the U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe 2010 Culinary Arts Team, rush to prepare and serve the entree at a culinary demonstration and awards ceremony at the Patton Barracks Warrior Zone in Heidelberg, Germany, April 29.**



**Left: The winning dinner meal consisted of herb pork tenderloin crepinette and braised pork belly with crimini mushroom bread pudding and carrot and ginger puree served with onions, peas and savoy cabbage.**

The meal plan for the demonstration at the Warrior Zone was built for a group of 60 guests, including USAREUR Commander Gen. Carter Ham.

“The reason we support the culinary arts team is because, like so many of our other programs, it encourages Soldiers and civilians in U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe to strive for excellence,” said Ham during his address at the event.

For the chefs, challenging themselves with competing, preparing, cooking and serving intricate meals is hard work, but they say it is a labor of love.

“I love it. I honestly do,” said team member Sgt. Jesse Parker. “You really have to have a passion for cooking if you want to do

### Team Europe

Sgt. Maj. Mark Warren  
Daniel Trawick  
Peter Wetter  
Staff Sgt. Stevie Bronson  
Staff Sgt. Joseph Dinuzzo  
Staff Sgt. Levy Robinson  
Sgt. Kevin Auvil  
Sgt. Jesse Parker  
Sgt. Ken Turman  
Spc. Matthew Hendriks  
Spc. Holly Moss  
Spc. Calvin Parker  
Spc. William Pelkey  
Pfc. Antoinette Davison

something like this.”

The team worked together in all aspects of preparing the meal, from setting up a containerized field kitchen to preparing ingredients, cooking the food, keeping the kitchen clean, washing dishes, and serving the meal when it was finished. Everyone seemed satisfied with the final product.

“It’s a great privilege for all of us to be here today,” Ham said. “And there are a lot of clean plates around the patio, which is a testament to the absolute excellence that was provided by these extraordinary service members and civilians.”

Ham presented members of the team with the Army Commendation Medals for their excellence in the culinary arts, and for representing USAREUR at the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition last month. Team Europe walked away from that competition with 22 gold, nine silver, and five bronze awards, including the competition’s top team prize – the Installation of the Year Award. Team officials said that award has not been won by a Europe-based team since 1992.

## Cream of the crop



**Cpl. Cory Odeair, food service specialist with 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, makes pea preparations prior to delivering them to hungry customers at Grafenwoehr's Main Post Dining Facility, May 4. Grafenwoehr's and Hohenfels's dining facilities recently won the 2010 Philip A. Connelly Competition in their respective categories.**

Photo by Jeremy S. Buddemeier

Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels dining facilities now Connelly caliber and will compete at the IMCOM Europe level in June

by **Raneta Jackson**  
*USAG Grafenwoehr  
Directorate of Logistics*

Passion for cooking and a heaping handful of teamwork were the winning recipe for the dining facilities in U.S. Army Garrisons Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels last month during the 2010 Philip A. Connelly Competition. This year, USAG Hohenfels' Warrior Sports Cafe won for small garrison category, while Grafenwoehr's Main Post Dining Facility won for large garrison category. It was the first win for Grafenwoehr's DFAC since it re-opened in the fall of 2007. Both winners will represent the USAG Garrison Grafenwoehr at the IMCOM-Europe level in June.

The Connelly program, which is co-sponsored by Department of the Army and IFSEA, is the most prestigious competition in the Army. Evaluators, critique participants in areas such as food preparation, taste, nutrition, service and sanitation.

Established in 1968, the award recognizes excellence in Army food service. The award is named for the late Philip A. Connelly, former president of the International Food Service Executives Association.

*Editor's Note: Ranetta Jackson is a food service operations specialist with U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr's Directorate of Logistics.*

## Strength in Diversity Bronson takes gold at culinary competition

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Jerry Wilson**  
*2SCR Public Affairs*

For more than nine years, Staff Sgt. Stevie Bronson of the Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, has been cooking for thousands of Soldiers on a daily basis. Recently, Bronson had the chance to showcase his culinary talents competing as part of the U.S. Army Europe's Culinary Arts team in the 35th U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition.

The competition is a 45-day event that draws the top chef from installations throughout the United States and Europe. This year's competition consisted of teams from 26 posts.

“We began at Fort Pickett where we trained for 30 days,” Bronson said. “The training consisted of preparing our dishes for the competition and getting them down to a science.”

The dishes Bronson and his team prepared were not the ordinary meals you find at your local dining facility but rather dishes Bronson described as exotic.

“These were dishes that you would get at a five-star restaurant,” he said.

Once the training was complete, teams moved on to Fort Lee, Va., for the actual competition portion of the event. Bronson proved to be a force to be reckoned with, scoring first place wins for his presentation of a lavish five-course rabbit dinner. Thanks to his hard work, Bronson brought home the gold, winning best in show and best in exhibit, scoring 38.5 out of a possible 40 points. Bronson also aided his team in winning the Installation



**Staff Sgt. Stevie Bronson mixes the meat into his sauce at the Dragoon Inn Dining Facility on Rose Barracks.**

of the Year award, an honor not won by a Europe team since 1992.

Although Bronson admits early in his career food service was not his first choice, his experiences have lit a flame in him for his job.

“When I signed up my recruiter said this might be the best job for you since you like to eat,” he said. “Ever since then I have loved my job and think it is the best career I could have ever picked.”

As far as what the future holds, Bronson said his victory will not change him.

“I am still going to be Staff Sgt. Bronson,” he said. “I will continue to compete and encourage my Soldiers to compete in competition as well.”

### Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page at [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil) for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS  
GRAFENWOEHR TRAINING AREA

1910 2010

## Grafenwoehr

TRAINING AREA

100 YEARS

By Michael Beaton, JMTC Public Affairs

### Cold Warriors toe the line in post-WWII Grafenwoehr

In the spring of 1945, the U.S. Army fought its way into the Nazi Reich. That April, elements of Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army arrived in Grafenwoehr, and occupied the training area after a bloodless surrender.

In less than a year, the invading American Soldier of World War II would be transformed out of necessity into the ‘Cold Warrior’ that would stand toe-to-toe for 41 years along the Iron Curtain, before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

American Cold War Soldiers were forged out of transformation. They came from all 50 States, and served in an Army of racial, ethnic, and later, gender diversity. The units they served in were integrated and they profited from a system that promoted solely according to merit and ability. They were led by officers who had seen combat firsthand, all over the globe through-out World War II.

In contrast to his Soviet counterpart, who maintained strict isolation from the populace,

the U.S. Soldier could be found in the off-post guesthouses and at the local volksfests of West Germany, a fitting unofficial ambassador of the postwar Marshall Plan, the U.S. program of assistance which rebuilt a ruined Europe.

After the Soviet Union under Stalin tested its first atomic bomb in 1949, the U.S. Army Soldier serving in Germany lived in tense realization that he served on the front lines of a new, potentially even more devastating nuclear war, which would not be won by masses of armies on the move, but by hard disciplined training, readiness and cool rational leadership in reply to East Bloc escalation and Soviet threats of annihilation. Consequently, the Grafenwoehr Training Area became on the most important installations in Europe, less than 50 miles from the Iron Curtain.

In 1989, generations of Cold War Soldiers who trained at Grafenwoehr would finally see the vindication of their service, watching on televisions all across America as the Berlin Wall - the tragic symbol of the Cold War dividing Germany - tumbled, releasing a flood of jubilant East Bloc citizens reunited with their families in the West.

Helmut Kohl, the West Germany chancellor at the time of the fall of the Wall in Berlin was to remark “It's like victory in Europe all over again.”

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# Community joins in remembrance

Story and photo by  
**Molly Hayden**  
*Staff Writer*

Each year “Days of Remembrance” or “Yom Hashoah” calls the nation to remember and pay tribute to all the deaths and destroyed families, and the fear and brutality of the Holocaust.

The dark event in history was a systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945. During the Holocaust, Jews were the primary victims – six million were murdered; gypsies, the handicapped and Poles were also targeted for destruction or decimation for racial, ethnic or national reasons. Millions more, including homosexuals, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war and political dissidents, also suffered grievous oppression and death under Nazi tyranny.

Although nearly 77 years have passed, what some would claim is ancient history, the Holocaust remains ever-present to survivors and their families.

More than 50 Soldiers, community and family members gathered at the Tower View, April 23, to listen to stories of heroes and hope, as well as despair, while remembering those who perished and those who fought.

Guest speaker Rabbi Daniel S. Katz addressed the audience and spoke of the unwarranted prejudice and ignorance, stating such a mindset “can have a great impact on a community.”

“But what we stress is you, as individuals, can make a difference,” said Katz. “Everyone has a contribution to make, it may not be self-evident, but those who make significant contributions often do not set out to do so.”

Seven men and women were honored at the ceremony for their significant life-saving contributions, including Miép Gies, one of the Dutch citizens who hid Anne Frank, her family and several family friends in an attic annex during World War II; Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who saved the lives of more than a thousand Polish Jewish refugees during the Holocaust by employing them in his factories; and Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who saved the lives of thousands by issuing transit visas to Jewish refugees. Sugihara wrote travel visas that facilitated the escape of more than 6,000 Jewish refugees to Japanese territory.



**Young thespians from the Performing Arts Center performed excerpts from the play “And a Child Shall Lead,” by Michael Slate during the “Days of Remembrance” ceremony at the Tower View, April 23.**

The story of Sugihara hit home for Rhoda Wilner, gifted education resource teacher at Netzsberg Elementary School, who feels personally impacted by his benevolence.

Wilner shared a story of a close family member that fled to safety with the help of Sugihara.

“Without his help my niece and nephew would not be here, we wouldn’t be the family we are,” said Wilner. “This one man made a huge difference in the lives of so many, including mine.”

As the event continued, young thespians from the Performing Arts Center performed excerpts from the play “And a child shall lead,” by Michael Slate. In the short performance, children brought to life the heroic and true story coming of age in Terezin, the “Jewish city” established by the Nazis near Prague as a way station be-

fore the death camps. In the face of unspeakable horror, these children used their determination and creativity to build lives filled with hope and beauty – playing, studying, and writing poetry – all at the peril of being executed.

“We need to keep these historical events in our awareness,” said Master Sgt. Celeste Brown, Joint Multinational Training Command, Equal Opportunity Advisor. “To understand these events and increase the awareness to prepare and take proper action if ever needed.”

Throughout the remembrance ceremony, community members were reminded what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred and indifference reign.

“When you educate people about the past, they came make a difference in the future,” said Wilner.

# USAREUR Soldiers, units garner 3 of 5 top engineer awards

Schweinfurt’s Johnson and Baumholder’s Ranger are among stellar engineers who set standard for Army

by Maj. Daniel Meyers  
*U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Three of the Army’s five top engineer awards for 2009 were presented to U.S. Army Europe units and Soldiers in a ceremony at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., April 21.

Bravo Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, 172nd Infantry Brigade, from Schweinfurt, Germany, was selected as the 2009 Itschner Award winner. The Itschner Award is named in honor of Lt. Gen. Emerson C. Itschner. It is presented annually to the one active and one reserve component engineer company judged to be the Army’s best during the award year.

“Bravo Company, 9th Engineers is the best sapper company I’ve seen in my 20 years of service,” said Lt. Col. Louis Rago, commander of Task Force 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor, which the 9th Engineers supported during their recent deployment to Iraq.

Calling the company “the tip of spear” for the task force, Rago said his Soldiers could not have done their jobs if the engineers had not faced the danger of clearing routes in South Balad Ruz for them.

First Lt. Brent J. Johnson of the 500th Engineer Company, 15th Engineer Battalion, was selected as the Army’s outstanding engineer platoon leader for 2009.

That award is presented each year to the one active and one reserve component lieutenant engineer platoon leader judged to have made the most outstanding contributions to military engineering during the award year as a result of their leadership and technical skills.

Johnson earned the award for leading four construction projects that saved the Schweinfurt and Bamberg communities \$185,281. Those projects included creating a habitat for frogs and tadpoles in the Schweinfurt Training Area; improving local improvised explosive device training areas in Schweinfurt and Bamberg; and building a paved parking lot in Bamberg.

“I was the first platoon leader of the ‘Beat it Down’ platoon, which gave me the chance to set the tone and create a legacy that will continue to grow,” Johnson said. He added that it was an emotional day when he passed the platoon along to another leader in September 2009.

Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Ranger of Baumholder, Germany’s Charlie Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, was selected as the 2009 Sturgis Medal winner.

Named in honor of Lt. Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis, a former Army Chief of Engineers, the medal is awarded annually to one engineer noncommissioned officer judged to have made outstanding contributions to military engineering as a result of leadership and technical skills. LAST year’s Sturgis was also presented to a USAREUR soldier.

All of these nominees for this year’s awards represented their major commands with “the highest professionalism and dedication to the Engineer Corps’ vision, and deserve our highest praise,” said Brig. Gen. Bryan G. Watson, commandant of the Army’s Engineer School.



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## One Eagle Scout’s project whets multiple whistles

**Rose Barracks’ Big Mike Sports Field now boasts an eight-spigot water fountain, thanks to over 300 hours of hard work logged by 16-year-old John Wood (center) of Boy Scout Troop 240. Wood’s Eagle Scout project garnered assistance by Vilseck High School sports coach Jim Hall, the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, his father, Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wood (left); mother, Hui Wood (right); brother, Frankie, 12 (right of Hui); and other scouts. The fountain offers athletes and community members no-waiting access to quench their thirst.**

*Photo by Nick D’Amario*

# ‘Theater of War’ helps Soldiers, families cope

Well-known actors to visit community, engage in discussions on combat stress

by Staff Sgt. Patricia Deal  
*U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – “Theater of War,” an innovative theatrical approach to helping Soldiers and their families cope with combat stress, makes its U.S. Army Europe premiere for select communities, May 12-26.

Locally, performances are scheduled at the Grafenwoehr Field House at 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

“Theater of War” uses dramatic readings from ancient Greek plays to foster discussions about the trials of war and the emotional return home from battle that challenge today’s combat service members and their families.

Recognized stage and screen actors perform the readings. Actors in the USAREUR tour

include Gretchen Egolf, who has appeared in “Roswell,” “Journeyman,” and “Law & Order SVU”; Jamie Hector, who has appeared in “Heroes,” “The Wire,” “Law & Order,” and the short film “Five Deep Breaths”; Reed Birney, who has appeared in “Gossip Girl,” “Kings,” and “Law & Order”; and Brendan Griffin, who has appeared in “Law & Order” and the TV movie “Taking Chance.”

After the readings, audiences participate in town hall discussions with a guest panel of combat veterans, family members and medical professionals from the local military community.

While “Theater of War” has been touring military communities and town hall meetings across the U.S. since 2008, this is the show’s first time in USAREUR.

The Defense Center of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury contracted for “Theater of War” to encourage service members to seek assistance for psychological health concerns.

## “Theater of War” performances

- Today - Heidelberg, 1:30 p.m.
- May 13 - Baumholder, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- May 14 - Wiesbaden, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- May 17 - Bamberg, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- May 18 - Schweinfurt, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- May 19 - Ansbach, 10 a.m.
- May 20 - Kaiserslautern, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- May 21 - Stuttgart, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- May 25 - Grafenwoehr, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., at the Field House
- May 26 - Hohenfels, 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



# Lakotas make U.S. Army Europe debut

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Walker**  
*JMRC Public Affairs*

After a long wait, five new UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters arrived at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, April 21.

Falcon Team pilots landed three twin-engine Lakotas at the airfield at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels. Pilots landed two more of the helicopters later in the day.

Chief Warrant Officer Chris Prater, a flight operations officer and instructor pilot at JMRC, was one of the pilots who made the two-hour flight from Ramstein Air Base.

“We were the first ones to fly these aircraft in Europe for the U.S. Army,” he said. “That’s a unique feeling.”

Prater said JMRC and the Falcon Team had been planning for the new aircraft’s arrival for more than a year.

“Wow. It’s happened. The wait’s over,” Prater said.

The Falcon Team is slated to receive five more Lakotas in January to bring the inventory to 10 at JMRC. The Lakotas will replace the post’s aging fleet of 10 UH-1 Hueys, which entered the military service more than 25 years ago.

Prater, who likens helicopters to motorcycles, said he likes the old Hueys, but not as much as he likes the new Lakotas.

“The Huey is like a cruiser. It’s like a Harley Davidson. It makes a lot of noise. It pops. It’s easy to fly. It’s laid back,” Prater said. “The Lakota is like a crotch rocket. It’s sleek, it’s fast, it’s modern,”

The Lakota aircraft will become part of JMRC’s training center’s inventory utilized to train U.S. and multinational forces. The aircraft will carry equipment that includes a Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System, a Smart On-Board Data Interface Module, and an electronic data manager.

Preparations for the Lakotas’ arrival to JMRC included sending 20 pilots to qualification training, sending crew chiefs to academic training and readying the facilities to maintain the new aircraft.

Maj. Steve Murphy, Falcon operations officer and senior operations trainer, said the Lakota will enhance JMRC’s capabilities.

“The new airframe offers a lot of flexibility,” he said. “It gives pilots more situational awareness and better communication packages. Plus, it’s a much easier aircraft to maintain.”

Among the helicopters that arrived at JMRC was the 100th



**Joint Multinational Readiness Center’s Chief Warrant Officer Richard Infusino, a Falcon Team pilot, backs up his gear after landing one of five new UH-72A Lakota Light Utility Helicopters at Hohenfels Army Airfield, April 21. The new helicopters will replace the post’s aging fleet of UH-1 Hueys.**

aircraft manufactured. EADS North America, who builds the aircraft, delivered the 100th UH-72A Lakota to the U.S. Army, March 4, at American Eurocopter’s production facility in Columbus, Miss., where the twin-engine helicopter is produced.

Military leaders have said the UH-72A Lakota program has progressed on schedule and within budget. With a remarkably high operational availability rate and an admirable safety record, the aircraft has been well received by Army aircrews.

# Chaplain center gets new interior, programs

Story and photo by  
**Kristin Bradley**  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

Though the building is not new, the Chaplain Family Life Center hosted a ribbon cutting and open house, April 22, a ceremonial reopening to commemorate a refreshed interior and a series of new programs to support Hohenfels Soldiers and families.

“What we want people to take away from this is one-stop shopping for pastoral care and training,” Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Brott, deputy garrison chaplain and senior family life chaplain, said at the ceremony.

“Family life training is a combat multiplier in that it keeps our families resilient. We know that keeping families strong allows those Soldiers on the tip of the spear to do their job,” said Brott.

“The Family Life Center creates a space for God to create trust and a feeling of belonging,” said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frank O’Grady.

Creating that space has taken some hard work over the past few months, said Angelique Dilmore, family life coordinator.

To create a more welcoming atmosphere inside the building, all the interior walls were repainted last summer as part of an Eagle Scout project by high school student Zachary Wood and a team of volunteers. This spring Dilmore said the staff cleaned out the facility and placed artwork and decorations to give the building a cozier feel.

Those were just cosmetic touches, however, on top of more substantial changes that have recently taken place.



**Chaplain (Maj.) Robert Brott speaks to a crowd gathered for a ribbon cutting and open house at the Chaplain Family Life Center, April 22. The event aimed to publicize enriched programming and a renewed interior at the facility.**

The center has increased its program offerings to include monthly Spouses’ Luncheons and Dads’ Luncheons that have featured guest speakers from on-post services such as the New Parent Support Program at Army Community Service and social work services from the health clinic.

Dilmore said they have gotten especially

positive feedback from the Spouses’ Luncheons, something she personally understands the need for.

“People say it doesn’t feel like a class, it feels like a group of friends talking. Things like this helped me a lot when my husband was deployed and we wanted to give that to them (other deployed spouses) too,” said Dilmore,

who explained that the luncheons began as a program for spouses of deployed service members but have expanded to include all spouses.

The center also offers Dads’ Luncheons designed to help fathers stay connected with their children after deployments and through the fast pace of life at Hohenfels, said Dilmore.

Though some programs and even the name of the center indicate a focus on families, the center also caters to single Soldiers with retreats, training and counseling. According to Brott, they also hope to begin offering special day trips for single Soldiers on some weekends, “Duty Days with God,” that would take the Soldiers off post for center programs.

At the heart of all those services and programs is a basic presupposition that while the chaplains and social workers help guide the way, God ultimately does the healing, said Brott.

“We offer faith-based counseling services open to any Department of Defense ID card holder, civilian or Soldier,” said Brott, though he said that doesn’t mean a one-size-fits-all approach.

“For people that don’t exercise their faith or are not up-to-date on their faith, we still cater to them too,” said Brott. “We meet them where they are. If someone who comes in for counseling is active in their church we’ll make the services very faith based, but we’re cognizant to meet them where they are. We’ll not force anything, but lead them to the Lord in their time and through their choice.”

To learn more about the services available at the Chaplain Family Life Center, call DSN 466-3473 or visit Building 747 by the commissary.



## Running outside the Box

**Right: Runners set out for the 10K portion of the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Box Run through the Hohenfels Training Area, April 24. More than 100 Soldiers, family members and civilians, and even some pets, participated in the annual event made up of a 10K run, 5K walk or run and a 3K Kid’s Fun Run. In the men’s 10K, Capt. Luke Mercier came in first at 39:17; Maj. Corey Landry, second, at 40:10; and Lt. Col. Rafael Paredes, third at 40:40.**

**Left: Julie Kerchner and Kelly Witty cross the finish line together at 48:35, tying for first place in the women’s 10K. Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet finished third at 49:26. The largest participating unit was Headquarters and Headquarters Company Operations Group with 48 total participants.**

*Photos by Kristin Bradley*





# Top of the world



Photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini

**U.S. Army 1st Lt. Larry Baca, right, shows 1st Lt. Jared Tomberlin the view of a valley from a ridge near Forward Operating Base Lane in the Zabul province of Afghanistan, Feb. 21, 2009. In March 2010, photographer Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini, Joint Multination Readiness Center Viper team, placed second in the Department of Defense Military Photographer of the Year Competition Combat Documentation category with this photo.**

## JMRC’s Mancini receives top honors for photography

by Kristin Bradley  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

As a Viper at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini is tasked with telling the Soldier story by covering operations on the battlefield (or training field in the case of JMRC) to provide commanders a visual record of a unit’s operations.

After years of documenting the tasks of other Soldiers, Mancini’s own actions have garnered him recognition.

Of more than 2,200 photos submitted for the Department of Defense Military Photographer of the Year Competition, Mancini placed second in the Combat Documentation category with a photo he took of B Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He also received an honorable mention in the feature category for a photo of B Co. Soldiers sleeping on an aircraft while waiting to depart for Afghanistan from Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan.

Mancini said in a competition usually dominated by Navy and Air Force photographers, “it was nice to score one for the Army.”

“(Mancini) has single handedly chosen to put the Army photographers on the map and I think that is a credit to him and his dedication to his craft,” said Anthony Young, Vipers operations officer.

In addition to documenting training operations at JMRC, each time a 1-4th Inf. Regt. company deploys from Hohenfels, two to three Vipers will frequently accompany the unit for several months to document their operations in Afghanistan. Mancini took his award-winning photo, a shot of two lieutenants on a ridge near their forward operating base, while deployed with B Co. from January to April 2009.

Mancini said during the deployment he took more than 30,000 photos, sometimes taking 600 to 700 on a single mission. That day however, one was all it took.

“I usually take 20 to 30 photos of a scene to try to get it right,” said Mancini, “but my first shot of them was that one. That one is the only one I took of them because right after I took it they got up and moved,” said Mancini.



Photo by Sgt. Christopher Barnhart



**Staff Sgt. Adam Mancini takes a photograph of local Afghan children near Forward Operating Base Baylough, March 17, 2009. Mancini, a member of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center Viper team, placed second in the Department of Defense Military Photographer of the Year Competition Combat Documentation category for a photo he took of Company B, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment while deployed to Afghanistan with the company in early 2009.**

### Mancini

Taking those 30,000 photos is something Mancini said he has been waiting for since he joined the Army in 2000.

“One of the reasons I joined (the Army) was because I thought I could really increase the morale of Soldiers through photography. It took me 10 years to get this opportunity but I think I was able to show the world what these Soldiers are doing and it feels great to accomplish that after 10 years,” said Mancini.

Mancini called the deployment “the best three months of my military career,” which he said is due in large part to the Soldiers he was with, some of whom he knew prior to the deployment.

“After a while I learned to really trust them

with my life. On patrol I could concentrate on taking good photos because I really trusted the guys I was out with. Their professionalism and bravery allowed me to do my job to the best of my ability,” Mancini said. “They were such a great group of guys that it was tough to leave them after only three months.”

Since he has been back at JMRC, Mancini has resumed his responsibilities documenting training operations with the approximately 25 other photographers and videographers on the Viper team. To view some of Mancini’s photos, including those he took of B Co. in Afghanistan and ones he took in the Hohenfels Training Area, visit [www.defenseimagery.mil](http://www.defenseimagery.mil) and search “Mancini.”

# New policy, programs and improvements discussed at town hall

by Kristin Bradley  
*USAG Hohenfels Public Affairs*

At an Army installation, the garrison and its staff function much like the city government of a civilian town. Lt. Col. Kevin Quarles, garrison commander (like a town mayor), oversees the Department of Public Works (roads, maintenance and grounds), Department of Emergency Services (police), Department of Human Resources (post office and personnel), Department of Logistics (transportation and materials), Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (town events and activities), and more.

Also like a typical civilian town, U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels holds town hall meetings where all community members are invited to come hear community updates and ask questions of the commander and agency directors.

At the most recent quarterly town hall meeting in the Post Theater, April 20, directors discussed topics ranging from changes to the Army Traffic Safety Training Program, to a bowling center upgrade, to improvements made as a result of Interactive Customer Evaluation comments.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Brenda Kadet briefed the audience about recent changes to the Army Traffic Safety Training Program, which now requires remedial driver’s training following an accident or traffic violation.

“For Soldiers, regardless of what they were driving (a private vehicle or a government vehicle), on or off duty, if they are convicted of a moving violation or are found at fault in a traffic mishap, they will have to take this training,” said Kadet.

According to a document sent by the Pentagon Telecommunications Center, Department of the Army civilians will be required to take the training if they are in an accident or convicted of a moving violation while in a duty status, on or off post. The regulation does not apply to family members or contractors.

The new rule requiring completion of the on-line training will apply to any accidents occurring after April 5, said Kadet.

Kadet said the change came from the Department of the Army just as garrison and JMRC officials were considering a similar plan due to a high number of fender benders in recent months.

Stacye Downing, Family and MWR director, spoke about the five-year plan for the bowling center, which includes modernizing the scoring system and monitors in fiscal year 2010, improving food service by implementing a Family and MWR Strike Zone restaurant in fiscal year 2011, and replacing seating and flooring in fiscal year 2012.

Downing also talked with the audience about Hired, a Child, Youth and School Services program coming this summer, which places students in apprenticeship programs with agencies throughout post.

In addition to briefings about upcoming events and programs, garrison officials briefed the community about changes their organizations have made as a result of Interactive Customer Evaluation comments.

Quarles said ICE continues to be one of the best ways for community members to create positive change within the community by alerting staff to issues and concerns.

At the last town hall meeting, Jan. 6, attendees asked Quarles for a more efficient road conditions notification system. At the April 20 meeting the Department of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security said since the last meeting they had improved notifications on AFN and the Command Information Channel and had worked to provide earlier notifications.

Maj. Michael Zink, provost marshal, said the Department of Emergency Services increased the number of telephone lines available for the Road Conditions Hot Line, greatly decreasing the chances a caller will hear the dreaded busy-signal. Zink also said as a result of suggestions from community members, the speed limit while approaching the barrier at Gate 5 outbound has been decreased to 30 kilometers per hour to allow drivers more time to slow down before reaching the barrier.

For more information about town halls, visit the “Town Hall” section of the USAG Hohenfels Web site, [www.hohenfels.army.mil](http://www.hohenfels.army.mil), which contains a list of community questions and command answers from previous town halls. Community members can also ask questions about life in Hohenfels under the “Discussions” section of the U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels Facebook page. Questions directed at the command will be answered by a garrison representative.

## Tapping into spring

**Col. John Spiszer, Joint Multinational Readiness Center commander, with the help of Johann Weigl from the Bischofshof brewery, taps the keg at the opening ceremony of the 40th Annual German-American Volksfest at U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels, April 28. The five-day event featuring rides, games, food, entertainment and a beer tent drew thousands of people from both the American military community and the surrounding German towns.**

Photo by Kristin Bradley





# May Highlights

**6 & 7** **Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
Open House and drawing**  
May 6 - Rose Barracks Library, May 7 - Main Post Library

**9** **Mother's Day Special Tournament**  
Rose Barracks Bowling Center

**12** **Spring Bunco**  
Tower View, Main Post Grafenwoehr

**15** **Open Mic Night**  
Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center

**27- 31** **Provence, South of France**  
Leisure Travel Services

**28 - 30** **Rock out, Camp out!**  
Outdoor Recreation - Big Mike Lake

**29** **2010 US ARMY Soldier Show**  
Grafenwoehr, Main Post Theatre

\*Contact information can be found in the Bavarian-American Magazine or online at [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/info/BA\\_Magazine.pdf](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil/info/BA_Magazine.pdf)





# What’s Happening

## Garmisch (Continued)

**Garmisch Walking Tour**  
May 25: See historic places in Garmisch, the younger of the twin cities; find out the differences between that newer Garmisch and much older Partenkirchen. 6 p.m. Cost: \$7.

**Munich in the 3rd Reich**  
May 21-23: Begins with a video presentation and historical orientation at 7 p.m., Friday, followed by a tour Sunday. Meet at the Garmisch Bahnhof for the 8:04 train to Munich. The tour recreates the Bierhallen Putsch of 1923 and visits the site of the Munich Accords and other places associated with the Nazi movement. Cost: \$35.

**Nuremberg**  
May 38-31: Tour the Franconian city of Nuremberg with its incredibly rich history; visit the medieval castle, the home of Germany’s foremost Renaissance artist Albrecht Durer, the toy museum recalling Nuremberg’s proud history in handcrafted toys, and many other sites. Cost: \$320.

**Partenkirchen Walking Tour**  
June 2: Historic sites in Partenkirchen, the older of the twin cities which dates back to Roman times! See the “Plague Chapel” put up during the Thirty Years’ War, great frescoes, the State School for Woodworking, and the Partenkirchen Kurpark.  
Listen to some wonderful stories about Ludwig the Bavarian, Henry the Lion and St. Mark. 6 p.m. Cost: \$7.

**Erdinger Therme**  
June 3: Water park; extremely therapeutic, relaxing, calming, exhilarating and lots of good fun! Departs 7:50 a.m. Costs: \$15 for transportation, €32-38 for entrance, plus extra for food.

**Brewery of the Month**  
June 5: The “last beer stop before heaven” is the Monsteiner Brewery near Davos, Switzerland, which is famous for its beer, beer bread, beer cheese, beer sausage and single malt whisky.  
Transportation, brewery entry and guidance, all-you-can-drink beer tasting, and post-tour meal included.  
Rest/photo/shopping breaks in Imst, Austria, Fluela Pass, Switzerland, and Vaduz, Liechtenstein. 7 a.m. Cost: \$89.

**Prague**  
June 11-13: Begin with an orientation tour of Prague and then a tour that includes popular tourist sites. Tickets can be arranged for those who want to see a ballet or a modern opera. There will be a fair amount of free time and a guided tour of the Franz Kafka museum. Departs 4:15 p.m. Cost: \$270.

**Top Chef Garda See**  
July 2-5: Three nights on the lake-shore in beautiful Torri del Benaco with two days of cooking classes in a villa overlooking the lake plus wine tasting. Monday is market day - we head home stocking up on goodies and visit some vineyards on the South Tyrol Wine Road. A foodie extravaganza! Departs 5 p.m. Cost: \$575.

## Ansbach Briefs

**Spring Clean Up**  
Spring Clean up week is May 17-21. Free bulk refuse pick up will be May 19, from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. The city of Ansbach will pick up refuse at Army family housing in Katterbach, Bismarck, Bleidorn and Barton Barracks duplex houses.  
Leased housing (Heilsbronn, Lichtenau and Obereichenbach) bulk refuse pick up is May 19 by Roads and Grounds Dept.  
Put bulk items on grass by the buildings early morning the day of pick up. Items for pick up include old furniture, lockers, electronic waste, carpets, floor coverings, large television consoles, beds, buckets, mattresses, suitcases, wall units and more.  
They will not pick up hazardous waste, batteries or tires. The recycling centers in Katterbach and Illesheim are open Mon–Fri, 8 a.m.-noon and 1 p.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Visit new library**  
The Storck Barracks library is now open at its new location across from the PX. Come by and check out the new digs. For more, call Illesheim area support team manager at DSN 467-4515, CIV 09841-83-4515.

**1st time vehicle registration**  
All personnel registering a vehicle for the first time in USAREUR must provide copies of PCS orders assigning them to Germany or their unit of assignment. This includes civilian personnel (AF, NAF, AAFES, etc.).

If assignment orders are not received, a memo is required from the working agency authorizing logistical support. This rule is in addition to the normal registration requirements and vehicles will not be registered until the required documents are received.  
Personnel will also need proof of ownership, proof of third party insurance, ID card, USAREUR license and registration fee. Documentation varies depending on vehicle origin.  
For more, call Ansbach/Illesheim vehicle registration at DSN 468-7892, CIV 0981-183-7892.

**Learn to shoot digitally**  
The Ansbach Arts and Crafts offers digital photography classes for adults, Monday in May 17 and again May 24. Classes will be from 4-6 p.m., in Building 5262 (next to the Vehicle Inspection Station on Barton Barracks).  
Cost is \$40. Call 0981-183-77627 or DSN 468-7627 for more information.

## Schweinfurt Briefs

**Community and contact info**  
For more information on the latest news, upcoming events, available services and resources, or to find the right point of contact for your concern, visit us at [www.TeamSchweinfurt.com](http://www.TeamSchweinfurt.com).

**Paintball Mayhem!**  
Outdoor Recreation’s special offer throughout May: Paintball Mayhem, Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Conn Paintball Field. Patrons get 25 percent off field fee and equipment rental and also save \$20 on a box of paintballs. The special also applies to unit training and groups reserving the field during the week.  
For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

**Youth Advisory Council**  
All interested students, grades five to 12, are invited to the Youth Advisory Council, May 13, at the GC Conference Room in Bldg. 206 on Ledward Barracks, starting at 4:30 p.m.  
For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

**Food Handlers Class**  
Take the food handlers class, May 13, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Yellow Ribbon Room to receive your food handlers’ certification – a requirement if you are serving prepared foods to the public. Space is limited. For more or to sign up, call DSN 476-2041/2138, CIV 09662-83-2041/2138.

**Super Saturday**  
Register now through May 14 for Super Saturday, May 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Children must have current CYSS registration and immunizations at time of reservation. For more, call DSN 354-6517, CIV 09271-96-6517.

**Seussical Jr. Storytime**  
Meet the cast from Seussical Jr., the upcoming community theatre play, who will be reading “Horton Hears a Who,” at Ledward Library, May 18, from 4 to 5 p.m. For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

**BOSS events & Soldier Show**  
The award-winning Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program offers numerous programs monthly.  
Join them May 18 for a Bowling night at Kessler Bowling Center, starting at 7 p.m. or come to the next BOSS meeting, May 25, at the Finney Recreation Center, starting at 2 p.m. The next meet & greet will be held May 27 at Kessler Field starting at 1 p.m.  
Furthermore register now through May 25 for the BOSS Soldier Show in Bamberg, May 31 starting at 6 p.m.  
For more, call DSN 353-8476, CIV 09721-96-8476.

**Show me your talent**  
Sign up now through May 19 for the Show Me Your Talent competition, May 29, at Conn Community Conference Center. The youth competition starts at 1 p.m., the adult competition at 7 p.m. Categories are vocal, instrumental, dance, comedian, rap spoken word and more. For more, call DSN 354-6225,

CIV 09721-96-6225.  
**“Seussical Jr.”**  
The Community Theatre performs “Seussical Jr.,” a play based on the works of Dr. Seuss, May 20-22 and May 27-28, at the Abrams Entertainment Center, each starting at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for youth up to grade 12. For more, call CIV 0162-296-2776.

**Auto Skills Classes**  
The Auto Skills Center offers fundamental classes on various topics. Learn about “Advanced Bodywork,”  
May 20 or join them for an “Intro to Automotive Painting,” June 3, each from 7 to 8 p.m. Classes are free and open to all ID cardholders and all participants receive a free toolkit. For more, call DSN 353-8224, CIV 09721-96-8224.

**Socialize at the Lunch Bunch**  
Do you want to get out of the house, make a few new friends, and learn where good restaurants are around town? Join Schweinfurt’s Lunch Bunch, May 20 at the “Waldgastaette Schiesshaus,” starting at 11 a.m.  
Experience a little of the German culture with an English-speaking guide to help you translate the menu. Children are welcome. Please bring euros for lunch. Sign up for the carpool or call to get directions to the restaurant at DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

**Best Ball Golf Tournament**  
Register now through May 21 for the Best Ball Golf Tournament, May 22, at the Golf Club Schweinfurt in Loeffelsterz. Cost is €30 per person. For more, call DSN 353-8234, CIV 09721-96-8234.

**Outdoor Recreation trips**  
Outdoor Recreation offers various trips for all community members. Join them for the “Vineyard Hike in Zeilitzheim” May 23, from noon to 5 p.m. and enjoy some local German wines and tasty delicacies. Cost is \$10, including transportation, departing from and returning to the Outdoor Recreation Center. Sign up in advance and bring euros for personal expenses. For more, call DSN 353-8080, CIV 09721-96-8080.

**Volunteer of the Year**  
The dedicated service of countless volunteers transforms military installations into communities. To honor the outstanding volunteers of USAG Schweinfurt, the Volunteer of the Year ceremony will be held May 25 at Ledward Theater from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more, call DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.

**Library Youth Events**  
The Ledward Library currently hosts the following youth events weekly: The EDGE Jr. Journalists meet Mondays, 3 to 5 p.m., Storytime for children is held Wednesdays, starting at 10 a.m. and the “Zeens for Teens” meetings take place Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.  
For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

**Library Book Club**  
The Ledward Library invites you to the next meeting of their adult book club, May 26, at 5:15 p.m. The book title is “Dancing with Rose” by Lauren Kessler. Coffee, tea and treats will be served.  
For more, call DSN 354-1740, CIV 09721-96-1740.

**Memorial Day**  
Honor the lives and sacrifices of our heroes in arms. Join USAG Schweinfurt’s celebrations for Memorial Day, May 27, starting at 11:30 a.m. at the Brigade Flagpole Garden on Conn Barracks and enjoy a free American-style picnic at Conn Club Terrace starting at noon.

**D-Day Memorial Run**  
Registration for the D-Day Memorial Run, June 5, at Kessler Fitness Center, is open May 3 through May 28 at fitness centers for adults and at Ledward Gym for youth. For more, call DSN 354-6735, CIV 09721-96-6735.

**CYSS programs closed**  
All Child, Youth and School Services programs are going to be closed May 28. For more, call DSN 354-6670/6216

**G.U.T.S. meeting**  
The next Giving Understanding to Teens in Schweinfurt (G.U.T.S.) meeting will be held May 27 at the SMS media center starting at 8 a.m. The meeting is open to new middle school and high school youth. For more, call DSN 354-6057, CIV 09721-96-6057.

**Eagle Scout Reception**  
The Transatlantic Council is conducting a round-up of all Eagle Scouts residing in Europe to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. The Transatlantic Council will also be holding a reception for all Eagle Scouts, their parents, and spouses, May 29, at the Casablanca Room on Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, starting at 7 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person.  
For more, e-mail [advancement@tac-bsa.org](mailto:advancement@tac-bsa.org) or visit [www.tac-bsa.org/home.html](http://www.tac-bsa.org/home.html) or contact their staff at Camp Darby, DSN 633-7760.

# SHOW ME YOUR TALENT

Sat, May 29 ★ USAG Schweinfurt

**OVERALL AWARDS:**  
1st Prize Adult & Youth: \$500  
2nd Prize Adult & Youth: \$250  
3rd Prize Adult & Youth: \$150

**Conn Community Conference Ctr**  
Conn Barracks, Bldg. 90  
Youth Competition, 1 p.m.  
Adult Competition, 7 p.m.

**Categories (Individual & Group): Vocal, Instrumental, Dance, Comedian, Rap, Spoken Word & More!**

Competition open to all IMCOM-E garrisons; Sign up by Weds, May 19  
Call 0162-296-2776/DSN 354-6225 or email [garland.travis@eur.army.mil](mailto:garland.travis@eur.army.mil).  
This event is part of the 2010 U.S. Army Festival of the Arts competition.



## Best Ball Golf Tournament

Sat, May 22: 7:30 a.m.

**Golf Club Schweinfurt in Löffelsterz**  
**GPS ADDRESS:** Ebertshäuser Strasse 17, 97453 Löffelsterz  
**WEBSITE:** [golfclub-schweinfurt.de](http://golfclub-schweinfurt.de) (info in English available)  
**REGISTER:** Through May 21 at Finney Fitness Ctr or on-site from 7:30-8:15 a.m.  
**BRIEFING & COURSE RULES:** 8:15 a.m.; **TEE-OFF:** 8:30 a.m.  
**COST:** €30 per person due day of event (no U.S. Dollars accepted)  
**Open to U.S. ID cardholders age 18+.**

*Trophies will be awarded to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place teams.*

**FINNEY FITNESS CENTER**  
CONN BARRACKS, BLDG. 64  
09721-96-8234/DSN 353-8234





# Finding heaven in Holland

## Amsterdam, Haarlem give visitors options from racy to relaxed

by Joy Awe  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

There are few things more picturesque than spring in Holland. Tulips and crocus bloom along city streets, in parks and in massive fields throughout the country. Windmills and scenic canal streets are beautifully outlined against a backdrop of clear blue skies, the weather has started to warm up, and the maddening crowds of summer tourists are still several weeks away.

When most people think of touring Holland, they only think of Amsterdam, but other towns and cities are equally as lovely, and come with the added benefit of being cheaper and less crowded, since they are not as well known. Haarlem is one such city. Only fifteen minutes away from Amsterdam by train, Haarlem is a beautifully maintained medieval city with a bustling central market square, several awe-inspiring cathedrals, scenic canals, windmills and parks, as well as a wide variety of restaurants and hotels in all price ranges.

Because Haarlem is the center of Holland's flower industry, it is especially beautiful from mid-March to August, when any variety of colorful flowers abound. Crocuses first appear in March, followed by hyacinth and narcissi. Tulips start to bloom in April, and daffodils close the flower season in August. Although Holland's famous flowers are easily found throughout the country in spring, nature lovers will want to visit nearby Keukenhof, home to one of Holland's largest and most famous gardens.

History buffs will enjoy the many historical attractions in Amsterdam and the surrounding cities. The Anne Frank House, Royal Palace (Koninklijk Paleis), Old Church (Oude Kerk), and the Rijksmuseum are just a few of the many historic sites in Amsterdam.

Haarlem is home to the Haarlem History Museum, Corrie Ten Boom House, and several smaller museums.

Zaanse Schans lies a few kilometers north of

Amsterdam and hosts eight working windmills, a cheese farm, wooden shoe workshop, several souvenir markets and a scenic river cruise.

If shopping is your favorite vacation activity, Holland won't disappoint. The massive open-air bazaar Albert Cuypmarket lies in central Amsterdam and features leather goods, fabrics, Dutch cheeses, seafood, blue and white Dutch pottery, and a wide variety of other merchandise.

The fragrant flower market sells every imaginable color and variety of tulips and other types of flowers. Export rules recently became less stringent to allow visitors to take home inexpensive flower bulbs sold at the market as well.

For those who like to party, Amsterdam is perhaps the number one travel destination in Europe.

The Heineken Experience is an interactive tour in the heart of Amsterdam that beer connoisseurs will enjoy. The infamous red-light district is home to most of Holland's seedier pursuits, including countless bars, dozens of "coffee shops" that do not only sell coffee, and of course, the ever-present ladies in the windows.

Families traveling with young children might prefer to bypass the red-light district, especially at night, in favor of more child-friendly activities.

While some traditional Dutch foods, such as pickled herring, might not be considered delicious to many American palates, many Dutch specialties won't seem so foreign. Traditional Dutch pancakes stacked with fruit, chocolate or savory toppings like ham and cheese will be sure to please picky children and adults.

While numerous street vendors sell French fries (called "frites" or "patat") with or without the traditional Dutch topping, mayonnaise, for a delicious and authentically Dutch snack, try an order of "patat oorlong," fries topped with mayonnaise, peanut sauce and minced onions.

If Dutch food is not to your liking, reasonably priced ethnic restaurants abound throughout Holland, with Thai, Indian and Indonesian being some of the most popular and authentic. A Hard Rock Cafe location in Amsterdam offers a taste of home to those missing a good old American cheeseburger.

Haarlem makes an ideal home base to those who want to see Amsterdam or any number of other tourist destinations in Holland that are just as easily and cheaply reached by train. Since Haarlem is a smaller city, parking is easier and less expensive than in largely pedestrian-only Amsterdam, and hotels and restaurants are less expensive. You may even find that more laid-back, charming Haarlem is more to your liking than crowded, hectic and sometimes seedy Amsterdam.

Holland is easy to reach by car or train from all of the military installations throughout Germany, and flights into Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport depart from nearly every airport in Europe at regular intervals.



Photos by Molly Hayden

Above: When visiting Amsterdam or Haarlem one can find canals everywhere. Buildings sporting brightly colored awnings line the canals and boats of every size and shape travel up and down the busy waterways.

Below: Coffee shop Mellow Yellow is just one of many restaurants in Amsterdam providing coffee as well as other delicacies.

Bottom right: Although people drive through these areas, they are much more likely to bicycle or travel by boat.





# FPX tests German, American emergency responders

Garrison uses mock terrorists with realistic special effects to rehearse for mass casualty emergency procedures

by John Reese

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

Months of planning finally came to fruition as USAG Garmisch conducted its 2010 Force Protection Exercise, April 22.

The exercise scenario was big: bad guy active shooters with improvised explosive devices that cause a fire at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort on Sheridan Kaserne. The training employed realistic-looking fake firearms more common to a MOUT (military operations urban terrain) site and a thick fog of nontoxic vapor put out by a smoke simulator. Volunteer role players from the garrison and tenant units were done up in realistic make-up and special effects to simulate various wounds.

The Garmisch Polizei responded, with the chief of police present as an observer to watch the exercise unfold. The exercise was planned for early evening to maximize the involvement of local nationals who give up their free time as volunteer firefighters and members of the Bavarian Red Cross.

Working in partnership with the Garmisch Directorate of

Emergency Services, the actual exercise took about two hours to complete. A few interesting real-world glitches that happened during the training added unforeseen twists to the scenario injects, causing the garrison officers and tenant unit representatives at the emergency operations center to react.

Speaking to local media, observer and county Fire Inspector Peter Gaus said the exercise basically went well.

"It is important to hold these exercises every year to coordinate the cooperation between the military and civilian forces," said Gaus. "That is not always easy as this year's exercise showed."

Lessons learned were discussed in a follow-up meeting between garrison officers and the Garmisch emergency responders. The meeting was hosted and mostly conducted in fluent German by Garrison Manager Karin Santos, who thanked the host nation personnel for their support to the American community. Santos also thanked the staff and guests of the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort for their patience and support.

**Right: Bavarian Red Cross personnel attend to a "victim." Make-up worthy of Hollywood added realism to the scenario.**

*Photo by Sherry Hobbs*



*Photo by Angela Shannon*

The exercise begins a little after 6 p.m., April 22, as the Garmisch Fire Department responds to the call; a convoy of fire trucks is about to turn into Sheridan Kaserne.



*Photo by Beate Damato*

Military policemen make their first entrance at the hotel, working in teams to clear rooms of bad guys.



*Photo by Karlheinz Wedhorn*

Firefighters in full protective gear prepare lines to fight a fire inside the hotel.

## Garmisch volunteers appreciated at luncheon

Story and photo by

John Reese

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

Volunteers who donated 6,671 hours of their time during the past year were recognized at a ceremony and luncheon in the Marshall Center dining facility on Artillery Kaserne, April 21.

According to Garrison Manager Karin Santos, that much volunteer time equates to \$120,000 worth of man hours.

"During this time of reduced funding and cut costs, those hours given are truly immeasurable," said Santos, speaking before the presentation of awards. She went on to list almost 20 community activities that would not have taken place had it not been for volunteerism.

"The Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony gave us a chance to say 'thanks' to those who make our community even better," said Kari

Sharpe, Army Community Service volunteer coordinator and emcee of the ceremony. "Our volunteers do so much to make Garmisch a great place to live; our ceremony is one small way we can thank them."

Looking out over the packed dining room, Santos said: "I see the faces of not only those who are happily volunteering, but also the faces of those who are benefiting."

A few of the volunteers slated to receive awards were unable to attend due to the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull Volcano in Iceland and the subsequent stoppage of air traffic. Sharpe detailed each of them, what they did as volunteers, where they were stranded that they couldn't make the ceremony, and solicited a round of applause for the volunteers in absentia.

"Our volunteers make so many things possible! It is wonderful to be able to offer them a little bit of thanks," said Sharpe.



Maj. Martin Cheman thanks Staff Sgt. Derrick Gibson, Garrison Volunteer of the Quarter, for his many hours of volunteer work to the community. Also shown recognizing Gibson are Kari Sharpe, ACS volunteer coordinator (center) and Garrison Manager Karin Santos (right).

## Rock of the Marne vets visit

Story and photo by

John Reese

*USAG Garmisch Public Affairs*

Three World War II veterans of the 3rd Infantry Division visiting Germany for ceremonies commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of the war in Europe stopped by Artillery Kaserne, May 1, for coffee and beignets hosted by Garrison Manager Karin Santos.

William Ryan, 86 (15th Infantry Regiment), Charles Phallen, 93 (601st Tank Destroyer Battalion), and Murray Simon, 85 (7th Infantry Regiment), took time from a busy itinerary to meet with Garmisch community members, including fellow Marne warriors. A fourth veteran, Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Charles Murray, was unable to make the trip to Garmisch at the last moment.

Ryan and Phallen are Army retirees while Simon served as a private first class; Phallen and Simon are both doctors, while Ryan has the distinction of having the second longest time in service at an incredible 53 years in the Army.

Albert Anderson and Don Bell, two former paratroopers of the 11th Airborne Division who served in Augsburg 1956-1958 and were featured in the *Bavarian News* last year, accompanied the Marne soldiers as volunteer drivers.

"Garmisch is one part of Germany I never got to visit while I was here," said Simon. "We were stationed in Salzburg and I used to visit the lake region."

The trip was organized by Lt. Col. Timothy Stoy, historian, and retired Capt. Monika Stoy, president of Outpost 5845 Europe, of the Society of the 3rd Infantry Division. The Stoyes are ardent supporters of the society, dedicating much of their free time to the preservation of history.

"These historical events in Augsburg, Salzburg and Berchtesgaden are the first and most likely the last liberation/plaque dedication ceremonies," said Monika Stoy. "These are great events, made so by the presence of four great veterans and all the wonderful people who do care about history."



From left, retired Col. William Ryan Jr., retired Sgt. 1st Class Charles Phallen, Garrison Manager Karin Santos, former Pfc. Murray Simon, and trip organizer retired Capt. Monika Stoy.

Before coming to Garmisch the veterans paid a visit to wounded warriors at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. They were also interviewed by Stars and Stripes, the article appearing in the May 1 edition and seen by the vets for the first time while on Artillery Kaserne. After their stop in Garmisch, the vets were scheduled to continue on to Koenigssee to visit Battalion 232 of the Bundeswehr's mountain troops, and then on to VE ceremonies in Salzburg, Berchtesgaden and elsewhere.

The 3rd ID fought the longest and suffered the most casualties of the many divisions that fought their way across Europe in battles that include the Colmar Pocket, crossing the Rhine, Zweibrücken, Nuremberg, Augsburg, Munich, Berchtesgaden, the Obersalzberg and Salzburg, Austria. The "Dogfaced Soldiers" also have within their ranks the highest number of Medal of Honor recipients of any divisions in the European theater of operations.

**GO HOME!**

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Garmisch Web page, [www.garmisch.army.mil](http://www.garmisch.army.mil)



# Women at more risk for eye diseases

by Lt. Cmdr. Margaret M. Read  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

April was Women’s Eye Health and Safety Month, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Why designate a month to focus on women specifically? If you are a woman, your chance of being blind or visually impaired is greater than that of your male counterpart. In fact, two-thirds of people who are blind or visually impaired are women. But why is this?

The Women’s Eye Health Task Force compared data from several studies. The key factors that seem to account for the difference in men and women are women live longer, women are more likely to have certain autoimmune diseases, and women may experience decreased access to health care.

Two of the most common age-related diseases are macular degeneration and cataracts. Women, on average, live longer than men; therefore, more women will develop these conditions during their lifetimes, conditions that can lead to vision impairment or blindness.

Many of the autoimmune diseases such as lupus erythematosus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren’s syndrome are more common in women. The eye is particularly susceptible in these autoimmune diseases.

Access to health care may be decreased for a number of women. This could be due to socioeconomic factors that limit some women’s ability to receive eye care. The study also mentioned that frequency and quality of health care may not be the same as the care available to men.

Behavioral and environmental factors seem to be equal in men and women when it comes



to eye disease. Known risks for eye disease are poor nutrition, obesity (due to the link with diabetes) and smoking. Smoking is a proven risk factor for cataracts and macular degeneration. The important thing to remember about behavioral and environmental factors is that they can be changed. Our genetic make-up cannot.

So should women just assume they are doomed to experience vision impairment sometime in their lifetime? Absolutely not. Women’s Eye Health states that three-quarters of vision impairment or blindness is preventable or treatable. What can you do? Stop smoking. Work on maintaining a healthy weight. Exercise. Decrease the amount of direct sunlight exposure to your eyes. Have your eyes examined.

As Tommy Thompson, former Secretary of Health and Human Services, said, “Women are so busy taking care of their families, their jobs, and their lives that they don’t always have time to think about their own health.”

But women need to take the time to take care of themselves. The American Optometric Association recommends that people have a complete eye exam every two years. An eye exam can determine if you need vision correction. It can monitor for any risk factors you may have for certain diseases and diagnose problems early. Early detection and treatment of eye disease

generally results in a much better outcome for the patient.

Now that we know what to do about our eye health, what do we need to know about eye protection? Traditionally, women have had fewer eye injuries in the workplace than men (20 percent versus 80 percent). However, as women transition into jobs traditionally done by men, the risk level increases and the potential for eye injury at work will tend to increase. Wearing protective eyewear in eye hazardous activities at work or in the home can prevent up to 90 percent of eye injuries.

The Authorized Protective Eyewear List is the protective eyewear approved by the Army (<https://peosoldier.army.mil/pmseq/eyewearmessage.asp>). Active duty personnel can obtain protective eyewear from the unit supply officer. For a complete listing of protective eyewear in the workplace, please refer to the American National Standards Institute Z87.1 guidelines ([www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)).

Eye injuries do not just happen in the workplace. They can also occur in the home doing daily activities such as cleaning or yard work. Sports activities also have the potential to cause eye injuries. Wearing proper eye protection is important in the home, at work, and in our leisurely activities. Preventing eye injuries from happening is a much better option than treating and recovering from one.

If you would like more information on women’s eye health, please visit [www.womenseye-health.org](http://www.womenseye-health.org) or [www.healthywomen.org](http://www.healthywomen.org).

*Editor’s Note: Lt. Cmdr. Margaret M. Read works in the Tri-Service Vision Conservation & Readiness Branch of the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional).*

Patient Advocates



Did you know that if you have a problem before, during or after your visit to an Army health clinic you can contact the patient advocate?

The patient advocate will assess the situation and ensure you get the care and treatment you deserve.

During the next few months, the Bavarian News will feature each of the 15 patient advocates in the Bavaria footprint.

To speak with a patient advocate directly, contact your local health clinic.

## Katterbach Patient Advocates



**Name:**  
Sara Angelic Liriano

**Clinic:**  
USAHC Katterbach

**Hometown:**  
Newark, N.J.

**Position at the clinic:** Registered Nurse

**How long have you been there:**  
I have been in the clinic for one year and in Katterbach for one and a half years.

**What do you enjoy most about your job:** Seeing the satisfaction on my patients’ faces when I have been able to help them to the fullest and when they are happy with their health care.

**What is the one thing patients should know about their health care:** Patients should be aware they are responsible for their health care and we are here to assist them in any way we can.

**Why should patients come to see you:** I can help them to the best of my ability with any issues or problems that may arise during their appointment.

**Tell me something unique about yourself:** I am fluent in Spanish and English.

• • • • •



**Name:**  
Carrie Hogan

**Clinic:**  
USAHC Katterbach

**Hometown:**  
Fayetteville, N.C.

**Position at the clinic:** Registered Nurse

**How long have you been there:** I’ve been a volunteer since September 2009, and an employee since March 1.

**What do you enjoy most about your job:** I enjoy being involved in patient care at the clinic and providing education to our beneficiaries.

**What is the one thing patients should know about their health care:** Do not disregard symptoms. Go to the doctor, not Google!

**Why should patients come to see you:** I want patients to have a positive experience with health care so they will be more inclined to seek medical care in the future.

**Tell me something unique about yourself:** I’m teaching myself how to yodel.



Tips for new Army fathers

by Chris Ayers  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

Brand-new Army fathers may wonder which is harder, being a Soldier or being a dad — if, that is, they have the energy to wonder about anything at all.

Sleepless nights, crying babies and dirty diapers can get anyone worried about whether he will make it through. Fear not, Dad, for you are not alone. But a dad needs to stay strong for both his new baby and his wife. A dad needs to be there at 2 a.m. when his wife needs help changing a diaper that has failed or to clean up the wall next to the changing table when ... well, you’ll find out.

Here are some tips for brand-new fathers that will make life easier and help keep everyone happy. Every baby and every family is different, so what works for some might not work for others — new parents need advice, but they also need to figure out the right way for them and their baby.

**Tip 1:**  
Be patient. Babies can be very frustrating at times because they cannot tell us what is making them cry. Parents will eventually start to see patterns and understand what the cries and body movements mean. Until then, try taking several deep breaths while figuring it out. If one thing doesn’t seem to be working, try something else.

**Tip 2:**  
Try these techniques for soothing crying babies. New babies are still adjusting to life outside the womb. It will seem like they are crying for no apparent reason. There are many reasons why they cry, but here are a few common things to check.

Newborn babies need to be kept warm. Keep a hat on their heads most of the day for about three to four weeks.

Yes, the baby could already be hungry again. Newborns have very small stomachs and don’t require much food, so they want to eat more often. Don’t be surprised if your baby is eating every two

hours. (So much for sleep!) Change that diaper. Nobody wants to lie around in their own waste, and that includes babies.

Babies sometimes need alone time. If your baby is fed and changed but still crying and fidgeting in your arms, try just laying her down in the bassinet or crib and leaving her alone.

For breastfed babies, certain foods can cause gas, in turn making them uncomfortable and upset. A change in diet can help. If your baby has gas, try pumping his legs lightly into his tummy to help work out the gas.

Remember that a baby is very fragile and should never be shaken. If your baby is crying nonstop and you just can’t handle it anymore, put the baby down in the crib and leave the room for a few minutes. Collect yourself and try again. It is never OK to shake a baby or put a baby in a dangerous situation.

**Tip 3:**  
Do your part, Dad. A happy mom and baby will result from a father’s involvement in the care of the baby and the family home. Don’t wait to be asked to help clean up the house or change a diaper. Volunteer to take care of things such as bathing the baby or doing some laundry. A father who takes pride in his new role will feel better about himself and be a better dad. He will also make his wife happy, and all have heard and know, “If momma ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy!”

Being a father is one of the greatest, most rewarding things us men can do in life. A Soldier has many responsibilities, but none will be more important than raising that wonderful child of yours. It will be hard with deployments and travel, but you can do it. Never give up, always be prepared to help, and enjoy this amazing addition to your family.

For additional information, see Boot Camp for New Dads, [www.bootcampfornewdads.org](http://www.bootcampfornewdads.org).

*Editor’s Note: Chris Ayers is a research assistant for the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional).*

# Parents can take steps to stop bullying

by James W. Cartwright  
*U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional)*

Have you ever been teased? Victims of the tease generally manage it so that it becomes a joke for both the victim and the teaser. When this happens, the teaser will often stop teasing.

Sometimes teasing can become a hurtful event for a child, especially if the teaser persistently taunts the child. When this occurs, it is likely that the child is being bullied by another individual. The difference between teasing and bullying is only a matter of degree — the difference is that teasing generally is seen as ribbing someone playfully for a very short period of time, whereas bullying is characterized by repeated, hurtful attacks over a long period of time.

The “Stop Bullying Now” Web site describes bullying as an “aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Typically, it is repeated over time. A child who is being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself.”

Bullying has many forms, such as verbal taunting, name calling, threats, hitting and punching, intimidation using gestures or social exclusion, or sending insulting e-mails. The bully is usually bigger, older, stronger or smarter. The bully’s intent is to exert power over the victim. The bully is often one individual; however, school gangs will often taunt and harass vulnerable targets. Bullying has been identified as a major concern by schools across the United States by the National Education Association.

Verbal bullying is the most frequent form of bullying reported by both boys and girls. Boys are more likely to be physically bullied. The NEA states that girls are more likely to be targets of rumor spreading and sexual harassment. Social exclusion is often reported by girls. Cruel teasing and taunting done with the intent to hurt can have a negative impact on a child’s self esteem. Experts report that youth who are bullied are more likely than other youth to be depressed, lonely, anxious, feel physically sick and think about suicide. Furthermore, the child who is bullied may fear going to school.

Schools are not apt to consistently or effectively deal with bullies. Most school employees are generally unsure about what to do when a child is being bullied.

Parents may need to take action when they realize their child may be victimized by a bully. An effective preventive measure is to form a partnership with the school. Parents can do this by attending PTA meetings and school conferences, and by knowing their child’s teachers. By developing a partnership with their child’s teachers, it is more likely that teachers will respond when a parent presents a concern. A partnership can be extremely useful in taking necessary steps to eliminate





# Event inspires environmental awareness

Story and photo by  
**Gini Sinclair**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

A chorus of oohs and ahhs went up as the students spotted the two newborn lambs lying in the pen. The lambs, their mothers and a number of other sheep were part of the Earth Day event at Oberdachstetten Training Area, April 27.

For the second straight year, the environmental office at U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Directorate of Public Works arranged an Earth Day event with eight stations for the students in USAG Ansbach and fourth-grade students from the local school in Oberdachstetten.

Eighty-two American students and 67 German students wove their way through about half a kilometer of woods and fields in the training area in order to find out more about the environment.

Mathias Ruehl the beekeeper and a member of the beekeeper club was waiting for students at one of the stations. Ruehl pulled the beehive cover off in order to explain the bee's lives to each of the groups at his station. He showed them a section of honeycomb and explained the importance of bees to nature.

At another station was a shepherd with a small number of sheep penned up. The children listened as Jutta Seyfried, SORT coordinator, envi-



**Mordecai Popoola, fifth-grader at Rainbow Elementary School, dips water while looking for life in a body of water at Oberdachstetten. Popoola was taking part in Earth Day, April 28, at the station was managed by the Authority for Water Resources Ansbach. Popoola is the son of Spc. Olayori "David" and Sade Popoola, E Company, 5-158th Aviation Regiment.**

ronmental division, DPW, USAG Ansbach, explained about sheep in general and discussed the sheep in

the pen. The two little ones were born within the last 24 hours.

Firefighters from the USAG Ans-

bach's Directorate of Emergency Services manned a station and talked to the children about fire safety and

showed them the equipment used by firefighters.

A forester, courtesy of the Bavarian State Forest Department, manned another station. The forester talked about the forest, the ecology of the forest and the different trees, plants and animals that live there.

At another station students learned about energy production by riding a bicycle and finding out how much energy they could produce using their own energy.

Later, children were provided small flower pots, which they then decorated. Once decorated, each flower pot was filled with a primrose and then placed inside a paper bag for safe transport home.

One of the more popular stations was manned by the Authority for Water Resources Ansbach and included water tanks set up by a small body of water. Children took turns using a long pole and cup to dip water from the pond. They were looking for what kind of life would be living in the pond.

Each group of students moved from station to station, sometimes needing to be prompted by teachers to move on so the next group could take their turn.

"We try to get kids in touch with nature," said organizer Daniel Wornlein, DPW, USAG Ansbach. "We want to raise awareness about the environment."

# Students use technology to help Iditarod mushers

by **Ronald H. Toland Jr.**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

Fifth-graders at Ansbach Elementary School used technology to help mushers at this year's Iditarod Race and even made the news on the official Iditarod Web site.

"The purpose of the project was to utilize technology in a real life situation," said Louise Thompson, who taught the class at the school. "They had an objective to their project: To learn how to do research on the Internet, work with an Excel spreadsheet and actually work for something other than a letter grade."

According to Thompson, the students started the project researching mushers who are signed up to run the Iditarod Race this year.

"Each student selected a different musher and wrote a biography about them and designed a PowerPoint slide so that they could talk about their musher to the class," said Thompson.

She said students tracked the number of miles their musher ran and the weather, and used spreadsheets to compare miles and weather to determine what kind of weather the dogs ran fastest in.

"By giving students a purpose to their learning, they are highly motivated to complete the task," she said.

Thompson said students were able to see how math and computers have real-world value.

"Learning to assemble presentations and presenting their research and results to the class in a professional manner is a skill



*Photo by Louise Thompson*

**Fifth-grader Ashlynn Brewster presents her Iditarod vocabulary words to her class and to first-graders at Ansbach Elementary School.**

that they will not only use in school, but also in most careers," she said.

However, she offered up a learning experience that students

were not expecting.

"We did learn that we don't always get the results that we want and that it is okay to change plans midstream," she noted. "As it turned out, we learned that we did not have enough data to get accurate results – this in itself was a learning situation. We offered a hypothesis, but our results were inconclusive."

And what did the class learn?

"We had hoped to show that there was a correlation between the weather and how the dogs ran, but we brainstormed and decided that we left out some factors such as terrain and mandatory rest stops," said Thompson. "It was quite the learning experience."

As for students, the learning was an experience.

"I learned what the Iditarod is and I got to write to my musher," said fifth-grader Pamela Wance.

And as far as why students chose the musher they did, Thompson said replies were varied, but overall, it helped students develop a sense of belonging when they checked their musher's daily progress.

Regarding the musher response, Thompson said she only received one e-mail reply.

"Howdy, please thank the students and please let them know it may be a while before we can reply. Thanks and happy trails," said Jodi Bailey, one-half of the Dew Claw Racing Team.

For news on the official Iditarod Web site, go to: <http://iditarodblogs.com/teachers/2010/03/31/iditarod-around-the-world-germany>.

# Moon rocks come to Ansbach

by **Gini Sinclair**  
*USAG Ansbach Public Affairs*

Two classrooms of excited second-graders from Ansbach Elementary School listened attentively as Romy Kerstetter talked about space and the moon. The next day, she spoke to German elementary students from Ansbach. Kerstetter, an information specialist at Ansbach High School, is one of the people trusted by NASA to borrow the moon rocks and use them for education.

With the rocks, Kerstetter brought a complete presentation, which was tailored to fit the grade level of her audience. A slideshow allowed students to see the moon, spaceships and volcanic activity as it appears on Earth.

Explaining the importance of the moon, Kerstetter asked students questions while she answered theirs. As well as a slideshow, Kerstetter used a model Saturn V rocket to show students how space travel is done.

At the end of the presentation, Kerstetter passed around a special disk containing six samples from the lunar surface so each student had the opportunity to hold it and look at it closely. The disk contains a sample of anorthosite, a rock that makes up the most of the moon's crust.

Breccias is unique to the moon, as it is formed when an object collides with the moon. Mare soil was taken from the dark areas of the moon, Kerstetter explained. The word mare means ocean, and the ancient people looking up at the moon thought those dark spots were water. Basalt is a volcanic

rock, but Kerstetter noted the volcanoes on the moon are not explosive like the ones on Earth. An orange soil sample is what is formed from pyroclastic flows. A light colored soil called highland soil was taken from the areas of the moon's surface that are higher in elevation.

Kerstetter has borrowed the moon rocks before for presentations she gave while working in Korea. She said NASA requires special training, which she feels lucky to have received.

"I was working in a school library on an Indian reservation in Arizona," Kerstetter said. "NASA offered students at the school the opportunity to come visit. I was lucky to be a part of the group. We went to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for two weeks. While we were there we went behind the scenes and saw things that most visitors don't get to see."

While she has the moon rocks on loan, Kerstetter will give her presentation to between 23 and 25 classes.

Normally, the rocks can be borrowed for two weeks at a time, but because of the recent volcanic eruption in Iceland and its impact on the airlines worldwide, Kerstetter said NASA made an exception for her. Being responsible for the moon rocks means Kerstetter carried the small metal briefcase with her everywhere.

"They are either with me or locked up," Kerstetter said. "NASA only has a limited number of rocks and we have to take care of them."

# Germany's gratitude, an Army wife's perspective

by **Kerstin Gautier**  
*Special to the Bavarian News*

The recent Taliban attacks on German troops in Kunduz, Afghanistan, have sparked a great deal of coverage in the German media over the last few weeks – seven German soldiers died and 13 were wounded within a fortnight. German politicians, including Chancellor Angela Merkel and the Minister of Defense Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, were quick to express their gratitude to the 14 U.S. Soldiers of A and C Company (Air Ambulance), 5-158th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, who saved the German soldiers, and condemned the attacks of the Taliban as cowardly and malicious.

In February, the United Nations' mandate to increase the number of German troops in Afghanistan was renewed by the German government. Contrary to what many people might have anticipated, the Taliban attacks did not weaken the German government's resolve to participate in the UN mission. Rather, the attacks seemed to prompt an even stronger determination not to withdraw troops. Chancellor Merkel stressed that the German troops are not only there to help ensure security and safety in Afghanistan, but to maintain a position of security for Germany and all Western democracies.

These tragic incidents and their aftermath touched my life on many very personal levels

as I am half German and married to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steven Husted, one of the U.S. UH-60 Black Hawk pilots who saved the German soldiers. I was in Scotland for Easter when I heard the devastating news that on Good Friday (April 2) three German soldiers were killed and five wounded, four of whom badly, during a Taliban attack near Kunduz. Just days before I left for Scotland, my husband had told me that apart from sporadic medevac missions, things had been fairly quiet in Kunduz. When I heard the initial report on the radio, it became clear that the period of relative calm had come to an end.

After spending hours searching the Internet to learn more about the incidents, I discovered that three U.S. UH-60 Black Hawks had been directly involved in the medical evacuation flights. I instantly realised that there was a high probability that my husband had flown one of them. He and a small crew had been sent to Kunduz in March to support their sister company C/5-158 Avn. Regt, 12th CAB, a Medevac unit, by providing cover on their missions with a gunship, UH-60 Black Hawk.

By April 3, I knew that my husband was safe, but I had gone through such a multitude of feelings ranging from being worried, shocked, sad and speechless, to being thankful and then ultimately proud. My heart went out to the families of the German soldiers who had

See ANSBACH, page 20



# Field Artillery Soldier honored

Soldier remembered for leadership and his ability to smile despite adversity

Story and photo by

**Nathan Van Schaik**

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

A 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment Soldier who died near Bamberg, April 14, was honored during a memorial service at the Ledward Barracks chapel, April 22.

Family, friends and fellow Soldiers attended the ceremony to bid farewell to Staff Sgt. Thomas H. Oakley, 33, of Coventry, R.I. Oakley served as an ammunition section chief in Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, based out of Schweinfurt.

Among his leadership, Oakley left a positive impression on those whose paths he crossed.

"Today, we celebrate Tom's life and we remember how he personally touched all of us," said Lt. Col. Steven Hite, Oakley's battalion commander.

"He made a tremendous impact on Soldiers and leaders alike," said Capt. Lee Gray, Oakley's company commander. "What made him great was the genuine love he had for Soldiers and civilians alike. He dedicated countless hours to mentoring Soldiers on their duties, listening to their problems and taking an active part in giving those in need a helping hand."

To his friends, Oakley embodied many values and roles.

"One of his greatest traits was that no matter how bad things were, he always wore a smile," said Oakley's good friend, Staff Sgt. Daniel Skywatcher, who deployed with Oakley to Baghdad in 2007.

He was a "Soldier, leader, father, husband, friend, college graduate, car enthusiast and even used car salesman," Skywalker added, eliciting smiles and some chuckles from a standing-room-only crowd of those who knew him personally.

Oakley enlisted in the Army Nov. 11, 1997. He served in a peacekeeping tour in the Balkans and in multiple tours in Iraq. He had returned from a deployment to Iraq in November with the 172nd Infantry Brigade.

He is survived by his wife, Monika, and his two children, Mina and Thomas Jr.

**A memorial ceremony was held at the Ledward Chapel Tuesday, April 22, to honor Staff Sgt. Thomas H. Oakley, a member of the 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, who died April 14.**



## They came, they chose, they conquered

Story and photo by

**Nathan Van Schaik**

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Free will is a wonderful thing. When you wake up in the morning, you may deliberately choose to don white socks over brown ones. You may consciously choose to drink decaf over regular and you may even decide walk to work as opposed to driving. If you want to do something, you do it. Right?

So then, why can't someone who wishes to stop using tobacco products just choose not to buy and consume them? Why does free will suddenly take backseat to our impulses when tobacco is involved?

One reason is that tobacco manufacturers engineer their products to increase their addic-

tiveness so that people get hooked, according to research conducted by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

When you're up against a billion-dollar industry that's using mind-altering chemicals to make you want to use their product, it should come as no surprise, then, that kicking the habit takes both support and tremendous effort.

And that's why Schweinfurt's five most recent graduates of the health clinic's tobacco cessation class deserve considerable attention. Spc. Mehdi Berriri, Spc. Alexander Nelson, Alexa McCants, Heather Mertes and her husband Spc. David Mertes all graduated, April 20, sealing their commitment to life without tobacco.

The tobacco cessation program is sponsored by Schweinfurt Army Public Health

Nursing. Its facilitator, Maj. Vernell Jordan, chief of Army Public Health Nursing Bavaria West, runs the six-week program.

"They've been gung-ho since the beginning," Jordan said of the graduates. "The unit support and spouse teams have played a large role also."

Whether it's smoking or chewing, quitting the use of tobacco products first requires recognition and a willingness to stop.

"I had to stop because I couldn't run anymore," Nelson said, adding that in just six weeks he's noticed a considerable difference in his lung capacity and ability to run long distances.

The smoking cessation program is open to the entire Schweinfurt community. Classes begin May 4, June 29, Aug. 24 and Oct. 19. Medication to combat the side effects of quitting is provided at no cost though certain eligibility rules apply. Individual unit sessions are also available upon request.

Cessation is an ongoing battle for many of the April 20 graduates and the risk of relapse is an imminent threat. But for one Soldier, the long-term advantage of good health outweighs the short-term effects of getting a "fix."

"Just because you want a cigarette, you'll feel a lot better when you've gone a couple of weeks without them," Nelson said.

For more information on the program, contact the clinic central appointment office at CIV 09721-96-7901 or visit their Web site at <https://ermc.amedd.army.mil/schweinfurt>.

**Alexa McCants (left to right), Spc. Alexander Nelson, Spc. Mehdi Berriri, Spc. David Mertes and his wife Heather Mertes kicked the habit and graduated from the Schweinfurt smoking cessation program, April 20.**



## Army reaches out to survivors

by Eva Bergmann

*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Military life requires many sacrifices of Soldiers and their families. But what happens when a Soldier pays the ultimate sacrifice, when he does not return to the loved ones, awaiting him impatiently, counting the days until his arrival? What happens to them, when someone knocks on their door with a message we all fear too much to even think about it? What help is available then?

In order to serve family members of Soldiers killed in action, the Army deliberately approaches survivors with the Survivor Outreach Services (SOS), a program now available in Europe.

Not a substitute but as complementary support system, the SOS program aims at providing full-range care reaching beyond the means of casualty assistant officers.

While casualty assistant officers, Soldiers themselves, are "subject to change" due to PCS or troop moves, SOS program managers are civilians who remain available, offering continuous support. Additionally, the no-deadline policy guarantees long-term stability. Survivors can join the program at any time and stay with the Army family as long as they chose.

Feedback from Schweinfurt-based survivors proves how well this Army program strives to meet their needs.

"Before this program, I thought that the Army's only concern was the Army. I felt as if they wanted to get rid of the widower and just move on with business," remembered Beverly Dennie, survivor of an Army staff sergeant.

"But after this program, I was like 'Wow, they really care about us,' even more so with not putting a deadline on everything. It's an awesome program, I learned so much information, also about a lot of new programs that I wasn't aware of," she added.

According to Richard Thompson, USAG Schweinfurt's SOS program manager, the main goal is identifying the survivors' needs and connecting them with appropriate support programs, in and outside the military.

The assistance of the SOS program can be of essential help for new survivors, who are often too paralyzed to handle urgent formalities. For some, it is the first time dealing with financial matters – an overwhelming task.

"If you ask me, what I did within the first half year, I have no clue. I don't know anymore, what I did," said Daniela Bechert, survivor of an Army staff sergeant. While grieving and also taking care of a 1-year-old, she was facing challenging decisions.

"All the stuff from the bank for example, you get forms to fill out and 90 days to do so," Daniela recalled. "It was horrible. You need much more than 90 days to 'wake up' again."

"That's why it's so good to have these people. They help you fix things, that might have gone wrong in the first weeks or months," she added.

However, the greatest benefit of the program seems to be the support they find within the SOS network, even years after their loss.

"To know that there is someone who has gone through the same and really understands what I am feeling gives me comfort and strength," said Katja Jones, survivor of an Army staff sergeant. "Of course, I already did a lot of grief work, my husband died six years ago, but still after all this time the pain stays. It will still be there, but you learn to cope with it and talking to other survivors helps a lot."

For Thompson, the greatest challenge is to get the word out to the survivors. Many relocate and are difficult to find. He knows survivors often live isolated, explaining that overseas family members are more likely to lose connection to the Army. But the SOS program steps in to connect the dots.

"People were asking 'don't tell me, that's another one of those programs' and I said 'no, this is something else.' The SOS is focusing on me, not my husband, only on me and my needs," Beverly emphasized.

"And I'm sure there's other people out there and those people might have fears to come, but they shouldn't. This program is awesome and all survivors should know about it."

For more information on the program, contact ACS at DSN 354-6933, CIV 09721-96-6933.



# New youth center a virtual kid’s paradise

Story and photos by  
**Nathan Van Schaik**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

When Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of Installation Management Command, unveiled his new road-map last month in an effort to do a better job at taking care of Army families, this may have been exactly what he had in mind.

Entering Schweinfurt’s new youth center is like walking into some parallel universe entirely run by middle and high school kids. Kids compete in video games, some show off their musical talent on a high-end Yamaha keyboard, while others surf the Internet in a state of the art technology lab — all pleasantly distanced from the stress of life in the Army. Even the homework room was full.

Outside, a basketball game is in progress next to a skate park where skaters showcase their ollies. Meanwhile, a pack of youth tosses a football in the grassy area to the rear.

The youth center — part of the Child, Youth and School Services — opened April 8 after 13 months of construction and has been in full operation ever since. Everything about it comes off as ideal for an entire subculture within the military community known as the military brat. Even the timing of its opening in April couldn’t have been planned more perfectly as the military commemorates the month in honor of the military child.

The new million-dollar facility is an improvement from the smaller, outdated one located on Ledward Barracks.

“It has a lot more,” said John Gray, a seventh-grader at the Schweinfurt Middle School. “It’s by the running track and near the school. There’re more games and there’s a kitchen so that they can make better food for us.”



“I’d rather do my homework here than at home.”

**Samantha Gray**  
Eighth-grader, USAG Schweinfurt

And that’s not all. “We have a very inviting space here,” said Chris Withrow, the youth center director who recently moved to Schweinfurt after a three-year stint as the youth center director at Fort Lewis near Tacoma, Wash. “We have play space. And that’s something we didn’t have before. We can have these different programs running so no one is interrupted.”

Previously, all activities were situated in one room. Now, those working on arts or crafts have their own dedicated space, he said. The same is true for those engaged in homework, video games, music, cooking or Web browsing.

Additionally, there’s almost two-thirds more space, according to Withrow. The old facility fit only 32 people while the new one fits 88, he said. There’s a kitchen which provides staff the opportunity to prepare more nutritious meals.

“The biggest improvement is that it’s right across the street from the middle school,” he said.

The facility boasts other features, though less recognized by youth center members, but improvements nonetheless. It’s technologically and

ecologically more advanced featuring energy-efficient bathrooms, lighting, heating and cooling units.

In fact, the only disadvantage is that youth members had gotten used to the old location near the shoppette and PX’s food court on Ledward. This, however, may give health-conscious parents the upper hand in their children’s eating habits since the new youth center, which comes equipped with a state-of-the-art kitchen — something entirely lacking in the old facility — provides staff the opportunity to prepare more nutritious meals.

One other possible disadvantage to the new location is that it falls off the regular shuttle bus schedule. But even that is being remedied, according to Withrow.

“We’re hoping by next year we have our own shuttle just for CYS services, at least between here and Askren,” Withrow said. He also expressed hopes to affect the bus contract so that students from Bamberg High School could be dropped off at the youth center.

For Schweinfurt’s youth, the new center is a vast upgrade. But for parents, the improvements may even



**John Gray and Dustin Byrd, both of the Schweinfurt Middle School, know a thing or two about how to have fun. The new youth center, a million-dollar project that took 13 months to create, provides significant improvements like a technology lab, art and music room, kitchen, homework room and recreation area.**

leave a footprint on the household. Withrow — who has two children of his own and was a foster parent for several years — brings to the stage a robust plan to incorporate education into the center.

The relationship between the schools and the youth center, for example, goes hand-in-hand. Both schools provide all the textbooks to the youth center. Withrow also gears members toward using the center’s homework programs.

“I’d rather do my homework here than at home,” said eighth-grader Samantha Gray. “If you ever have a question, people can help and there’re computers to do research.”

There’s even a proposal for a before-school program geared toward middle school students. The program, still on the drawing board, would open at 5:45 a.m. and would provide breakfast, activities and homework support. The purpose of that program would be to ease the daily grind of Army life for families.

The new youth center may be a virtual paradise for Schweinfurt’s youth, but its benefits are felt by all.

“That’s the goal of Child, Youth and School Services: to reduce some of that stress on the parent so that they can go out and complete their mission and still have a family,” Withrow said.

## Kids play, laugh, learn with ‘Kinder & You’

by **Eva Bergmann**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

While most simple things come with instruction manuals, most complex matters in life don’t — like kids for example. Especially in the early ages of childhood, limited language skills and reasoning abilities can pose challenges to any parent. To help parents foster a healthy relationship with their kids, the Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration & Skills (SKIES) Unlimited offers the new class “Kinder & You.”

“The goal is for the kids and parents to play, sing, laugh and learn together, interacting with each other and within the group,” explained Tina MacDonald, instructor of the new Kinder & You class.

Combining six years of experience working with children, three years as a mother herself and suggestions and needs of parents she met along the way, MacDonald created the versatile “Kinder & You” program herself. The classes are divided into age groups to gear the exercises toward the kids’ levels of development.

Primarily, the program allows the kids to practice skills and motor abilities. However, the main focus is on strengthening relationships by providing an environment void of distractions. MacDonald explained that the program is open to anyone, including relatives and friends, who want to bond with the children.

Although she expects mostly spouses to attend, she also specifically encourages Soldiers to use this one-of-a-kind opportunity to spend quality time with their children. Therefore, classes are specifically scheduled for Mondays and Fridays to give Soldiers a better chance to join in on training holidays, said MacDonald.

Being in the military for seven years, MacDonald has lived at four different duty stations and knows about the importance of making friends. So while it is her goal to give the children a place to socialize and grow, the parents have equal rights.

“Towards the end of the hour, I plan to have an open-conversation element, where



**MacDonald**

parents can ask questions, or share their ideas,” MacDonald explained.

“We can really talk about anything: potty training, pacifier, teeth coming in. It’s also my goal to have guest speakers come in, specialists from different organizations in the community informing us about education, nutrition or health issues.”

Following the mission of providing military children with valuable activities, Peter Potter, director of SKIES Unlimited, appreciates MacDonald’s efforts and emphasized the benefits of the Kinder & You program for the community. Potter pointed out how the program could be particularly useful for new community members as platform to socialize and for first time parents to receive help with possible insecurities.

“Many people think having kids is something completely natural and everything falls into place,” Potter said. “But there’s no instruction manual and no one automatically knows everything, just because they have a baby. Especially young parents can become overwhelmed easily and we have many young parents in our community.”

“This program can provide the parents with great support to reduce insecurities and lets them know that they are not alone with their questions and concerns,” he added.

The groups and times of the Kinder & You program are as follows: Children up to 18 months meet on Mondays; children between 18 months and three years on Wednesdays; and children between 3-5 years on Fridays; each from 10 to 11 a.m. at the School Age Center, Building 575 on Askren Manor. The cost is \$25 per month. For more information or to sign up, call DSN 354-6460, CIV 09721-96-6460. Visit the Skies Unlimited Web page for information on other programs offered.

## Kinderfest honors little heroes

Story and photo by  
**Nathan Van Schaik**  
*USAG Schweinfurt Public Affairs*

Hundreds flocked to the annual kids’ extravaganza, April 24, at Askren Manor. Kinderfest, the annual hallmark event topping off the commemorative month honoring military children, attracted both American and German families in what some labeled the event’s most successful run.

“This is the biggest fest we’ve ever done,” said Daniel Jones, event organizer and Schweinfurt’s Child, Youth and School Services sports & fitness director.

“This is a lot better than last year because there’s more stuff,” said second-grader Jane Allen, who received face paint while she spoke. Her father, Capt. Jason Allen, B Company commander for the 44th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, is currently deployed.

“Oh yeah, this is twice as big as last year,” her mother Jennifer Allen said. “We really appreciate what they’ve done.”

Schweinfurt’s CYS Services hosted the event to honor military children and the sacrifices they make. Event organizers galvanized support from both on and off post and pulled together resources to entertain children and adults of all ages.

Children and families paraded the Askren grounds to kick off the event. Representatives from the garrison, youth center, fire department, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, schools and various tenant units marched in solidarity as community members, perched from their balconies, cheered the procession.

Along the School Age Center, pony rides, climbing walls, K-9 demonstrations, live entertainment and inflatable trampolines were just a few of the free events offered to the community from a list that included both indoor and outdoor attractions. Even the U.S. Army Europe Band, the Rhine River Ramblers, made an appearance.

“The most important thing is that the kids have fun,” said Sgt. Hubert Chaniewski of the 9th Engineer Battalion. He and his comrades had tied off a rope bridge between trees for children to climb. “It’s one of the things we do that we can utilize for the kids,” he said.

Indoors, various garrison facilities set up information booths, food tables, static displays and a wide-range of activities geared toward children and their parents. The library, bowling center, crafts studio and outdoor recreation center all had something to offer.

In all, the event served as a staging ground for



**Military child, Riley Robertson, repels from a rope bridge during Schweinfurt’s annual Kinderfest, to top off the commemorative Month of the Military Child.**

a multitude of garrison facilities to coalesce and give back to military youth. But it also drew support from German military officials who used the opportunity to provide for their children as well.

“We had about 45 Germany family members and Soldiers participate,” said Maj. Nathan Hurt of the Training and Doctrine Command who acted as liaison between the two forces. “We value our place in Germany and this event exemplifies our cooperation and friendship.”

“This has been very successful,” said Capt. Tadele Zeissig, the German Army liaison who coordinated efforts to have German Army families attend. “Last year we made a partnership bringing together German and American children and we want to continue this.”

Former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger designated April as the Month of the Military Child in 1986 underscoring the important role children play in the armed forces community.

Today, there are 1.7 million American children and youth under 18-years-old with a parent serving in the military and approximately 900,000 children and youth with one or both parents deployed multiple times, according to figures released by the White House’s Web site.



# ‘Toppers’ go to brightest stars in Europe theater

Continued from page 1

forward, because, truly, this is their only performance of the year. They get just one night to do it. No second or third shows to run; they have to get it right in one take.

The show opened with a rousing medley of 29 Broadway show tunes crooned by Topper singers or actors/singers from competing installations. Finally, after a few opening remarks, they got down to the business at hand: awards. In the end, 82 Toppers were awarded out of 211 nominations culled from 23 plays entered into the annual competition.

Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center brought home three Topper’s awards and 15 nominations. Casey Gibbs won Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Comedy for playing Teddy Brewster in “Arsenic and Old Lace,” and J.C. Smith won Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy for playing Jonathon Brewster in the same play. “Arsenic and Old Lace” was directed by Erin Hale. Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center won Best House Management for the show “And a Child Shall Lead,” directed by Jolene Powell.

Kathleen Rymer was just one of the nominees.

“I was pleasantly surprised, no ... shocked, to hear my name being called for a nomination for best actress in a featured role in a comedy,” said Rymer who played Officer O’Hara in the comedy “Arsenic and Old Lace” at Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center. “Having come late into the play, decisions about characterization had to be made quickly. I went with my instincts as an actress, and was glad they worked.”

Most of the award winners were volunteers who put in many hours for free. The joy derived from the process is their compensation.

“The most important thing regarding this win is the validation that, as a volunteer organization, we do what we do well,” said J.C. Smith, USAMEDDAC Bavaria Headquarters Information Management Division.

“Being personally recognized and winning for a category is an honor, however, it truly validates the work that we, as a collective group of volunteers, conduct is 110 percent outstanding. No one person could have achieved any excellence without the hard work and dedication of the people surrounding them.”

The process for determining the award winners is complex. All military installations within



**Casey Gibbs as Teddy Brewster, looks on as Abby Brewster speaks with Officer Brophy played by Lisolette Matthews and Kaye Wolfman, respectively, in “Arsenic and Old Lace” at the Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center in March. Gibbs won Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Comedy for playing Brewster. Teddy Brewster was convinced he was Teddy Roosevelt.**

IMCOM-Europe with live theatre programs are eligible to submit two plays annually into the Tournament of Plays. The plays are various combinations of dramas, musicals or comedies, depending on the whim of each theatre.

Once tournament officials know the theatres’ play schedules, they assign three adjudicators to attend all 23 plays in just six-weeks. This means the adjudicators are flying and driving all over Europe, sometimes going from one show to the next in just hours.

The casts and crews have no clue the judges are in the audience until after the play is over. Whew! Thank goodness, because it can be intimidating knowing they’re watching every move, costume, light change and more.

Immediately post-performance, the judges meet with cast and crew of the play to provide feedback on the show.

One adjudicator told the Grafenwoehr casts that realistically, “The judge’s feedback was just

their opinion.”

Oh, but what power their opinions hold. Those opinions determine who gets nominated for an award and of those nominated, who wins.

On the other hand, they don’t expect cast and crewmembers to do everything they suggest.

“Theater is about choices. The remarks they (adjudicators) do offer are candid and with the intention of helping us bring the quality of a show to the next level,” said Joline Powell, director of Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center.

“The value of the information I gain from the adjudicators is positive and allows me to gain insight into how and/or why I could do something better. On the other hand, I take from these sessions what is important to consider, but am able stand by the choices I make when putting a production together regardless of the reception.”

Like any profession, good theatre takes time, education and skill. Adjudicators give participants the tools to learn their craft and

## Grafenwoehr Performing Arts Center nominees:

- Best Make-up/play**  
Marina Acosta-Miller – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
- Best Hair and Wig Design/play**  
Kat Rymer – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
- Best Costume Design/play**  
Jessi Dye and Kat Rymer – “And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Sound Design/play**  
Joline Powell – “And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Lighting Design/drama**  
J.C. Smith and Jessi Dye – “And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Set Design/drama**  
J.C. Smith and Dan Hale – “And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Stage Manager/play**  
Jessi Dye – And a Child Shall Lead
- Best Ensemble for a Drama**  
“And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Actor in a Featured Role in a Comedy**  
Stephen Thornbrugh – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
- Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy**  
Daniel Hale – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
- Best Actress in a Featured Role in a Comedy**  
Kat Rymer – “Arsenic and Old Lace”
- Best Supporting Actress in a Drama**  
Annika Davis – “And a Child Shall Lead”
- Best Director for a Drama**  
Jolene Powell – “And a Child Shall Lead”

hone their skills.

“Adjudicators add an additional level of professionalism to the organization and always place that additional ‘step’ in front of you,” said Smith, “daring you to climb to the top.”

“Over the last five years I’ve participated in these events, I feel that the adjudicators continue to challenge the skills of the individuals they influence.”

“It was great, but being able to share my success with all the people at the Grafenwoehr theatre is more important,” said Casey Gibbs about his win. “Without their support and friendship I wouldn’t have even had the chance to win this award.”

“Participating in the theatre is like a box of cracker jacks,” said a smiling Gibbs, “there’s always a surprise inside.”

## Bullying is preventable

Continued from page 15

bullying in the school.

If a child is being bullied, Education.com suggests the following steps a parent can take to stop bullying:

- Talk with and listen to your kids — every day.
- Spend time at school and recess.
- Be a good example of kindness and leadership.
- Learn the signs of bullying.
- Create healthy anti-bullying habits early.
- Help your child’s school address bullying effectively.
- Establish household rules about bullying.
- Teach your child how to be a good witness.
- Teach your child about cyber-bullying.
- Spread the word that bullying should not be a normal part of childhood.

For a more information, go to the following Web site: [www.education.com/reference/article/ten-actions-to-eliminate-bullying](http://www.education.com/reference/article/ten-actions-to-eliminate-bullying).

Children will learn to handle most teasing situations, but they may need assistance or intervention from adults when they are subjected to repeated hostile and aggressive behavior. A child has the right to feel physically and emotionally safe. The vigilant parent can ensure that this happens. If you feel your child is being victimized, consult with your child’s teachers and school administrator, a behavioral health professional or law enforcement to help you develop an appropriate course of action to eliminate the bullying or harassment.

In addition to Education.com, the following Web site is a source of information for this article: [www.stop-bullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids](http://www.stop-bullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids).

*Editor’s Note: James W. Cartwright is a social worker for the U.S. Army Public Health Command (Provisional).*



Photo by Kristie Mashburn

### Playing the part

**First-graders Catherine Stetson, Jah’Quiese Collins and Riley Ladd play their parts during a performance of “Little Red Riding Hood” at Netzaberg Elementary School, April 28. Students from Emily Minkle’s first-grade class depicted the characters from “The Three Billy Goats Gruff,” “Little Red Riding Hood” and “The Three Little Pigs,” and recited their lines with perfection.**

## Ansbach spouse pens gratitude

Continued from page 16

lost their lives, but for me there was at least some small consolation in the thought that without the actions of my husband and the other U.S. Soldiers, more German troops may well have lost their lives. Indeed, the courage of the U.S. troops was highlighted in the numerous German media reports, which asserted that the selfless commitment of the American Soldiers had saved ‘unsere deutsche Soldaten’ (our German soldiers).

In fact, I was struck by how overwhelmingly positive the media response was, and in what high esteem the U.S. Soldiers were held. Although I knew that my husband and his colleagues would simply

view the incident as them doing their job, being half German I was glad that Germany’s profound gratitude toward U.S. Soldiers was being recognised and reported.

Yet, I did wonder how much of the content of the German media reports would be accessible to the American people in general, and to the U.S. Soldiers and their families in particular. Being a link between the two languages and cultures, I decided I would like to make a small contribution to intercultural understanding by relating my experience and thereby passing on the message of gratitude.

However, the extent of Germany’s gratitude has now been

given an official seal: during the Berlin press conference on April 21 with ISAF Commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the German Minister of Defense Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg, announced that the German government would honor the 14 U.S. Soldiers with a medal. The “Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr in Gold” is the highest honor bestowed for outstanding acts of bravery in the field of battle without regard to personal safety. For my part, as a U.S. Army wife, I feel extremely proud of my husband and his fellow Soldiers, but as a half-German citizen, I simply feel such a sense of gratitude and indebtedness.

## EB-G sets the standard for growth

Continued from page 1

“What the Efficient Basing-Grafenwoehr project has done for this community is tremendous,” said Brig. Gen. Stphen Salazar, commanding general, Joint Multinational Training Command. “However, this is not the end of the project. It is simply a transition to the next phase.”

The project, which formally began in late 2001, was a financial boon for the Grafenwoehr area.

“It is no secret that the northern Oberpfalz region is a structurally and economically weak region,” said Dr. Andreas Scheuer, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Traffic, Construction and City Development.

The U.S. has invested almost 700 million euro in the EB-G project. Add to that the investments made by third parties, utilities and administration costs on the German side of the project and the total approaches almost one billion euro.

“The irony of all this success, all this effort, is the reward,” said Col. John Kem, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe. “Now that this program is over, many of these talented souls who got us to this point are looking for jobs. Some reward, huh?”

Scheuer told attendees construction has not ended, though, and that additional large construction projects will be started in the near future at the U.S. military installations in Ansbach, Wiesbaden and Ramstein.

These projects continue to strengthen the U.S.-German partnership.

“U.S. Army Europe continues to pursue funding for new training and quality of life facilities for the Grafenwoehr community, as this community will remain critical to our training and operations through this period of transformation and into the future,” Salazar said.



# German, U.S. snipers a family of hunters

Story and photo by  
**Sgt. Charles D. Crail**  
*172nd Infantry Brigade Public Affairs*

HAMMELBERG, Germany – When learning to hunt, there are always telltale signals left behind to guide the hunter to his prey; a broken twig here, matted down grass where the prey spent the night, a puff of smoke from just inside the wood line.

Finding their quarry is just one piece of the puzzle for two Soldiers of the 172nd Infantry Brigade attending the four-week German Sniper Course, here, April 20. If the quarry detects their approach, it won't just spook and run, it could kill them with overwhelming firepower.

"Finding the right shadows, the right position to shoot from is all very challenging," said Sgt. Chad Silva, combat engineer, C Company, 9th Engineer Battalion.

Spc. Michael Ates, infantryman, sniper section, Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, echoed Silva's sentiment saying the most difficult portion of the training has been stalking and shooting moving targets. Stealth is the key when a sniper stalks, both before and after the shot, he added.

The opportunity for these two Soldiers to attend the German Sniper Course began two years ago with a chance meeting at range control in Schweinfurt, Germany.

German Master Sgt. Markus Eckert, sniper instructor at the German Infantry School recounted how his friendship with Michael Cormier, the maneuver damage control officer for the 172nd Inf. Bde. opened many doors for him to establish friendships in the U.S. sniper community.

"Mike introduced me to the Arkansas National Guard's mobile training team which taught the MTT Sniper Course in Grafenwoehr," Eckert said through a translator. "This opened the door for me to travel to the U.S. in 2008."

"Snipers are a different breed. German or American, snipers are snipers. Together, they form a sniper family," said Cormier.

This family connection and network of contacts has grown into an unofficial program, Eckert said. Over a two-year period, the German Sniper Course has hosted 12-13 U.S. Soldiers. German sniper instructors have also had the opportunity to work directly with U.S. Sniper School, Fort Benning, Ga.



**Spc. Michael Ates, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 172nd Infantry Brigade, sights in on his target while attending the German Sniper Course in Hammelberg, Germany, April 20. The unofficial exchange program between the United States and German sniper schools began two years ago and has lead to a beneficial exchange of lessons learned in both Iraq and Afghanistan.**

"The tactical value is really immeasurable," said Capt. Ken Noack, commander, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, which leads the U.S. Sniper School at Fort Benning. "Every piece of knowledge gained could potentially save lives or enable both military's snipers to be that much more of an asset to their unit. The cohesion that is built and the ability to work closely with an allied nation only makes us better partners and a more effective international force in places like Afghanistan."

"The most evident benefit is the camaraderie built between the Germans and U.S.," Noack said while explaining the exchange of knowledge and tactics. "Due to the fact we serve alongside Ger-

man soldiers and snipers in Afghanistan, this is a critical benefit for us."

"I'm loving it," said Silva. "It's a great experience, great everything. Master Sgt. Eckert has been showing us the ins-and-outs of how the German Sniper School goes. It's a great opportunity, I'm glad to be here."

"The knowledge gained by both parties has allowed us to shape our training to be even better," said Noack. "In the future, I would like to see an instructor exchange to both take the courses and to act as guest instructors."

Eckert summarized the ultimate benefit simplest: "We train together, we fight together and we win wars together."



**Above: Postal Supervisor Xavier Chatman assists a Soldier with his parcel at the Main Post Postal Service Center.**  
**Left: Thousands of parcels sit upon the shelves of the Main Post Postal Service Center, waiting for pick-up.**

## Post office still packed

Continued from page 1

longer than the regularity way of flight. Additionally, a few stragglers arrived by truck from postal facilities with the U.S. Army Europe footprint.

"We are in-processing what we can, but it's far and few between," said Bakalars. "And we have numerous packages stacked up, waiting to go out. We are ready, just waiting to hear when the influx will arrive."

As the flight ban lifted, envelopes and packages rushed into mailboxes and greeted their patient owners. But the long journey home was cramped.

"The amount of mail we processed ... was unprecedented for a single day delivery," said Bakalars.

Postal employees at the Main Post facility processed more than 2,500 parcels, April 26, which was nearly three times the daily average and well over the biggest holiday surge.

"This was the most I have ever seen delivered to Grafenwoehr ... in the last 10 years," added Bakalars.

The tsunami of inbound mail did not slow down the productivity of the post office, even with a limited staff.

The reduction in staffing was due to a turnover of employees and several employees on leave, stranded at their destinations until the flight ban was lifted.

Bakalars stated the Postal Service Center received support from the 38th Human Resource Company, a company of postal and administrative Soldiers, as well as logistic support from the command.

"What we had was a fully motivated staff that was willing to put in the extra hours," said Bakalars, adding that customer service was a high priority.

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor volcanic ash keeps these employees from completing their duty. Due to the exceptional amount of teamwork, the heavy volume of mail has since decreased and it is business as usual at the post office. The proof is in the mail.

## Families can pay for CYSS activities online

by **Dijon Nichelle Rolle**  
*Army News Service*

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The days of enduring long lines on the first and the 15th of every month or rushing into the Parent Central Services office, moments before closing time, may now be a thing of the past for parents with children enrolled in Child, Youth and School Services programs.

Paying for child care is now as simple as a few key strokes and a click of the computer mouse. The CYSS Web site has now expanded its options to allow parents to pay bills online, and they can also view available CYSS programs designed to keep their little ones busy year round.

In fact, the online payment option is now available Armywide and according to Stephanie Morales, parent services director for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Wuerttemberg's CYSS, it's yet another way the organization is transitioning into the future and focusing even more on the needs of their customers.

"It's been a long time coming," Morales said. "Everything is online, and a lot of our parents are generation Yers and they're social networking, and we're coming in and joining everybody else, she said. "It's also better customer service, it allows the customer to wake up in the middle of the night and pay their bill when they remember it rather than waiting until the next day to pay their bill."

Parents soon may be able to enroll and pay for any of the ongoing

activities listed, with the exception of enrolling in the full-day care program online, Morales said.

Another recent transition that may be a little more obvious to parents is the name change of the Central Enrollment Registry to Parent Central Services.

"Parent Central Services and parent services better defines exactly what we do," Morales said. "We're there to meet the needs of the parents, answer their questions, and direct them to where they need to go for which programs."

In fact, it was one of two name changes. Last year Child and Youth Services became Child, Youth and School Services. Pamela Primmer, coordinator for CYSS, USAG Baden-Wuerttemberg, said the organization followed guidance from the Soldier Family Action Plan, and it highlights the many faces and capabilities of CYSS.

"We want everyone to know how large our organization is and all of the wonderful things that we do for children, it's not only child care," Primmer said. "We have our SKIES programs, we have a large sports program, we have family child care, we have our school liaison ... anything that supports families and children and the Soldiers. That's what we're here for."

To log on to the FMWRC online services site, visit <https://webtrac.mwr.army.mil>.

*Editor's Note: Dijon Nichelle Rolle writes for U.S. Army Garrison Baden-Wuerttemberg Public Affairs.*

## Air Assault Course challenges Soldiers

Continued from page 1

here to do this since joining the Warrior Training Center," said Slater. "But if we've got white space on the calendar and a unit has the funds for us to train Soldiers, we'll do it. That's our mission – to train Soldiers – and we'll always be happy to do that."

Training for day one of the 10 toughest days in the Army began with an assessment of the physical fitness of the participants including a two-mile run and rigorous exercise culminating with the obstacle course.

"It's the hardest thing I've been through in the military, I'll tell you that much," said Spc. Eathan Petty, tracked vehicle mechanic, service battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment.

Participants tackled confidence building obstacles with names like "The Tough One," "Skyscraper," "Weaver" and "The Dirty Name." While moving between each obstacle event, Soldiers performed individual exercises designed to continually tax them physically.

"As much as the obstacle course is challenging, it is each exercise in between that is meant to break you down," Petty said. "And it did."

With over seven years in the Army and three deployments under his belt, Petty said he wanted to attend the school in order to challenge himself and see what he's got.

"I've never done anything like this. This is definitely the hardest thing I've ever done in the military," Petty said.

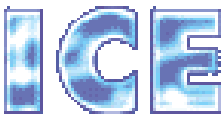
Throughout the obstacle course, the watchful eyes of the MTT instructors constructively and thoroughly drive on Soldiers.

"These guys are all here to uphold a standard," said Slater. "They are not here to protect the badge, but at the same time they are not here to give anything away free. They are here to see that these Soldiers are being faced with challenging tasks and are rising to the occasion and meeting the standard to complete those tasks."

"Do not follow the standard set forth by your unit," said Cpl. Robert Summers, Warrior Training Center instructor, while introducing students to their first obstacle. "Follow the example of my demonstrator."

Admitting his slight bias, Slater went on to say, "I mean it from the very bottom of my heart. I truly have in my eyes, the very best instructors in the world at what they do."

"This Air Assault training provides the brigade another enabler to better support the global war on terrorism," said Command Sgt. Maj. Malcom Parrish, interim command sergeant major of the 172nd Inf. Bde. "Specifically, ongoing operations in remote locations such as Afghanistan."



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### Go home!

Visit the U.S. Army Garrison Grafenwoehr Web page at [www.grafenwoehr.army.mil](http://www.grafenwoehr.army.mil) for up-to-date news, events, contact information and much more.